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No. 7

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El Paso, Texas, January 12-14, 1921



DECEMBER 1920

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THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK MONTHLY

Volume II

DENVER, COLO., DECEMBER, 1920

Number 7

The Beet-Sugar Industry in Its Relation to Live Stock

BY SAM FREED

THE FIRST FUNDAMENTAL FACT underlying the relation between beet-sugar manufacture and the live-stock industry is this: An average acre of sugar-beets yields enough by-products, exclusive of sugar made in the factory, to put 150 pounds of eatable meat on a steer during a feeding season, or enough to fatten ten lambs.

The second fundamental fact is this: The beet-sugar itself, being composed of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen ($C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$), all drawn from the air, takes no fertility from the soil. Some elements of fertility are used in growing the beet *plant*, but what is not left behind in the minute roots may be returned via the manure produced in feeding live stock the by-products.

These two facts, together with the average farmer's profit from growing beets, are at the base of the steady growth of the beet-sugar industry and feed-lot live-stock raising in the Rocky Mountain region.

Sugar-Beet Most Valuable of Food Plants

An average acre of sugar-beets, yielding 10 tons, produces, besides the by-products, an additional 2,500 pounds of granulated sugar. No other crop in the Temperate Zone, raised on a commercial scale, furnishes so much human food per acre. Wheat, for comparison, in our irrigated districts, produces about 1,300 pounds of flour and 500 pounds of bran. The average wheat yield of the United States is only half as much. The yield of an average acre of corn, transformed into beef or pork, produces not over 400 pounds of salable pork or beef, compared with the 2,500 pounds of sugar and the valuable by-products from an acre of sugar-beets.

The fundamental benefits of the beet-sugar industry being admitted, the live-stock raiser is interested in

what the by-products are, how they are fed, what they contain, how much feed in the aggregate is produced by the beet-sugar factories, and in such correlated, practical phases of the two industries.

Beet Tops as a Cattle Feed

1. *Beet Tops*.—The foliage of the beet plant, plus a small piece of the crown unsuitable for the sugar factory, is cut off the beet proper and is left on the ground when the beets are harvested. Farmers feed the tops in different ways. The prevailing practice is to pasture the tops either as left in the field by the toppers or from small piles. Progressive farmers are inclining more and more toward curing and stacking the tops and hauling them to the feed-corral, or toward siloing them.

Beet-top silage contains, by chemical analysis, 21.3 per cent dry substance, 1.88 per cent protein, and 11.5 per cent fat and like carbohydrates. The minimum food value that can be assigned to an acre of sugar-beet tops, properly handled, is equivalent to that of one ton of alfalfa. Estimating the beet acreage in the United States in 1920 at 800,000 acres, there is the equivalent of 800,000 tons of alfalfa for only one of the by-products from the beet-sugar industry.

Enormous Quantities of Beet Pulp Used in Fattening

2. *Beet Pulp*.—These 800,000 acres may be estimated to produce about 8,000,000 tons of beets. After the beet is sliced in the factory, the slices are processed through diffusion batteries and the saccharine matter extracted. The remaining fibrous mass is called pulp. It contains about 90 per cent water when it is flushed into the factory silos. Allowing for evaporation and drainage, the pulp sold to feeders during a season is equivalent to slightly less than one-fourth of the weight of the original beets.

Here is at least another 2,000,000 tons of cattle feed, which costs this year \$1.25 per ton at the factories of the Great Western Sugar Company. The pulp is fed at an average rate through the feeding season of about 100 pounds per head per day. The country's beet-sugar factories produce sufficient pulp to fatten many hundred thousands of cattle and ten times as many sheep.

A common daily ration per 1,000 pounds live weight consists of 12 pounds of alfalfa and 100 pounds of pulp, containing together 2.4 pounds of protein and 14.8 pounds of carbohydrates and fat, or a ratio of about 1 to 6. This represents the average of the whole feeding period of about 100 days. If animals are fed as much

the dried pulp, by weight, makes it almost as valuable as corn, which it resembles in composition.

Whereas it might be expected that feeders somewhat nearer to beet-sugar factories would make greater use of dried beet pulp, it has remained for stockmen and dairymen in the southeastern section of the United States, and in other non-corn-producing regions, to buy this high-value feed more generally than western feeders.

Molasses Rich in Carbohydrates

4. *Molasses*.—This by-product of beet-sugar manufacture is what is left of the purified beet juice after all the sugar possible has been obtained therefrom. However, this molasses still contains about 50 per cent



TYPICAL FEED-LOT SCENE WITH CATTLE ON BEET-PULP RATION

as they voluntarily consume, this ration at the commencement of feeding would likely consist of 150 pounds of pulp and 10 pounds of hay, and would finish with a slightly larger amount of hay and a smaller amount of pulp.

Comparing the various feeds from the standpoint of cost and the amount of heat or work they generate in the animal body, as well as the amount of live weight produced with given quantities of each feed, present conditions, as in the past, favor beet pulp.

Dried Pulp a Highly Concentrated Feed

3. *Dried Beet Pulp*.—Some beet-sugar factories dry the pulp, making it available for shipment in bags for any distance. Pulp-drying machinery is costly to install. This, together with the largely increased food value of

sugar. There is available for stock-feeding purposes about 60 pounds of molasses per ton of beets, or about 250,000 tons of this feed from the 1920 crop of sugar-beets in the United States.

Beet molasses, rich in carbohydrates, is generally fed in mixture with pulp, alfalfa, cottonseed, bran, and oats. It is an especially good cold-weather feed. Experiments have shown that molasses can replace grain, pound for pound, up to 4 pounds per head per day, especially with working-horses. A factory-made mixture of dried beet pulp and molasses is available to feeders, dairymen, and farmers. All classes of animals can be made to eat large amounts of straw if molasses is mixed with it. The secret of success in molasses-feeding is to start in with a small quantity and increase it gradually to the maxi-

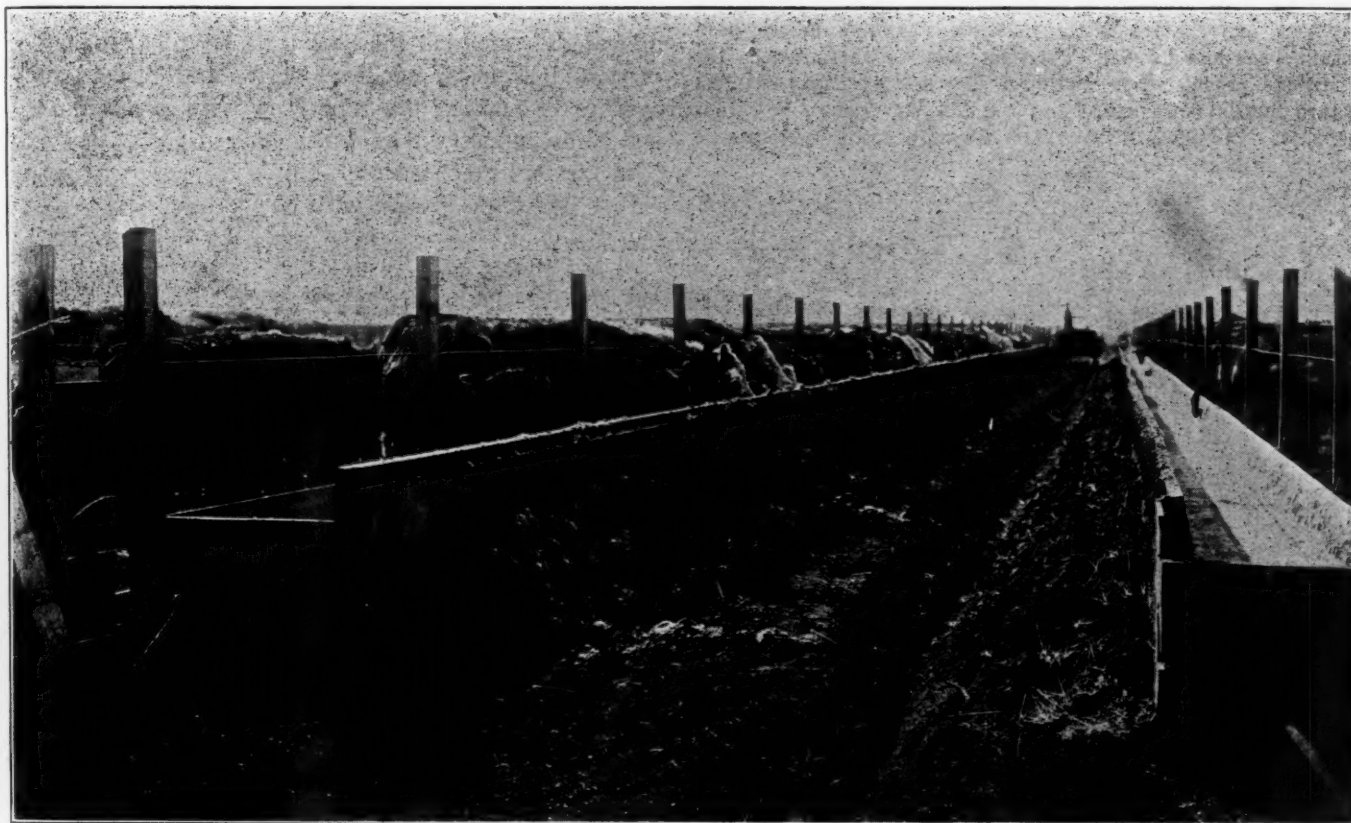
mum amount of about 4 pounds. Milk production of cows is increased by a molasses ration, and the appetite of fat steers is improved.

Most of Pulp Goes to Farmer Feeders

Beet-sugar factories, recognizing that soil fertility and yield per acre are bound together in producing the factories' raw material, desire to have as much manure as possible produced on the farms. The factories, therefore, generally do not engage in feeding operations except where they find it necessary to use what by-products are not taken by the more-distant growers. The Great Western Sugar Company, for example, allots its wet pulp to farmers and feeders in its sixteen factory dis-

ideal for every feeder. The premium paid for choice, well-finished cattle at virtually all live-stock markets is felt to be sufficient justification for this principle.

No figures are available on the current feeding operations of the Great Western Sugar Company. Last year its average feeding period was 205 days. It fed a total of 3,500 head of cattle at three factories, and 6,000 sheep at a fourth. Indications are that this number will be exceeded this year. While individual feeders have reliably reported cattle gains of more than 2 pounds per head per day on a ration of beet by-products among other feeds, the company's experience has been gains averaging under 2 pounds. A typical ration from one



FEEDING PULP TO CATTLE AT A COLORADO BEET-SUGAR FACTORY

tricts, having need in only a few cases for feeding cattle itself. While in these cases the cattle serve as an auxiliary pulp silo, the feeding operations are naturally conducted with the greatest possible efficiency and not without an eye to possible profit. The results are frequently made the basis of practical suggestions in the company's magazine for its growers, *Through the Leaves*, and also are enlightening for feeders generally.

As a result of these feeding operations, the company is a strong advocate of starting out with high-grade feeders rather than with thin stuff, and of feeding "to a finish." While recognizing that some stockmen may not be able financially to extend the feeding period until the most profitable finish can be put on the stock, the company's feeding experts hold that aim up as an

factory feed-yard, averaged for the season in pounds per head per day, shows feed consumed as follows: pulp, 116.49; hay, 8.95; molasses, 2.14; cotton cake, 1.72; salt, .014.

Suggestions for Feeders of Sugar-Beet By-Products

During its experience in feeding, the company has come to recognize a few conservative suggestions as possibly being helpful for all feeders, particularly beet-growers who feed some stock: The sugar-beet by-products are generally cheaper in proportion to their feed value than other purchasable feeds. A common mistake made by inexperienced feeders is to buy more animals than they have food for, or to try feeding the animals more per day than they can clean up to advantage. Continuous observation of the animals is necessary. Many

feed-lots do not come up to requirements for good drainage and ample bedding. The manure produced is one of the positive gains in the feeding business on the farm.

There is now a considerable library of authoritative reports and opinion on live-stock feeding with sugar-beet by-products. Experiments extending over a term of years have been conducted, showing the comparative superiority of these by-products.

Beet Culture Means More Cattle and Larger Crops

Professor Henry, in his "Feeds and Feeding," says:

A farming community which will intelligently grow beets, and utilize the pulp resulting from them in the feeding of cattle, will be able to grow as large crops, in addition to the beets, as were produced before adding that industry, and to maintain many more cattle than was possible before beet-farming was inaugurated. This statement is warranted by the conditions prevailing in the beet districts of Europe. Beet culture means more cattle and larger crops generally, rather than less; provided always that the pulp from the beets is properly utilized.

There is still another relation between the beet-

sugar industry and live-stock raising. Beet culture is intensive agriculture, leading to an increased density of population in farming districts. The result is an increased demand for live-stock products, affording a better home market.

Just now the beet-sugar industry, in common with the live-stock industry, faces a serious situation in the drop in prices. The important fact for live-stock raisers is that the by-products of beet sugar are cheap only when a profitable price is maintained for the main product—sugar. Any condition tending toward a decrease in beet acreage is a direct blow at the amount of low-cost live-stock feeds available from the beet-sugar industry.

If, as generally accepted, the present situation is an unavoidable stage in the transition back to "normalcy," it should serve to inspire farmers and feeders to co-operate in making the transition with a minimum of loss to an industry that during this and previous years gave farmers their most profitable crop, as well as providing live-stock raisers with cheap feeds.

General Survey of the Live-Stock Industry in Australia

BY A. C. MILLS

Melbourne, Victoria

(Concluded from October number)

COMPARED with other great stock-raising countries, Australia carries but a small number of cattle and few hogs, but is pre-eminent in sheep. The following table shows the position at a glance:

	Area(Sq. Miles)	Cattle	Sheep	Hogs
Australia.....	2,974,581	11,500,000	77,000,000	800,000
United States.....	2,973,890	68,000,000	48,500,000	73,000,000
Argentina.....	1,153,119	27,000,000	49,000,000	.....

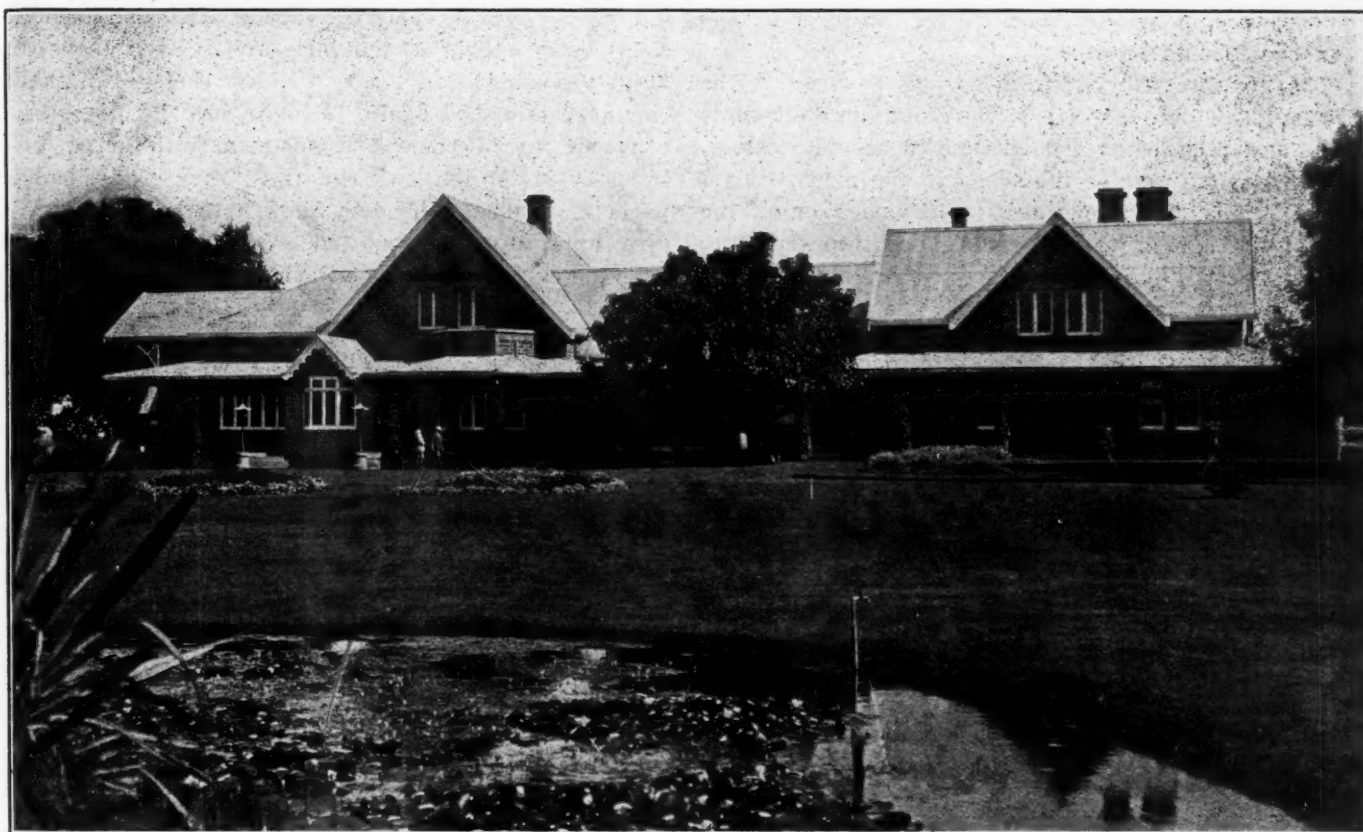
The returns for Australia and the United States are as of December 31, 1919, and for Argentina as of December, 1918, and, although only approximate estimates, are near enough for the purpose. The fact that Australia has such an insignificant rural population accounts to some extent for the relatively small aggregate of stock in the country, but beyond doubt the periodic droughts play an important part in keeping the numbers down. The effect of these is best illustrated by the appended tabulation:

	Cattle	Sheep	Hogs
Stock returns, end 1895.....	11,800,000	90,700,000	822,000
Stock returns, end 1902 (after severe drought).....	7,000,000	55,000,000	800,000
Stock returns, end 1911 (after period of good seasons).....	11,800,000	93,000,000	1,110,000
Stock returns, end 1915 (after sharp drought).....	9,900,000	69,000,000	1,000,000
Stock returns, end 1918 (after three fair to good years).....	12,000,000	87,000,000	1,000,000
Stock returns, end 1919 (taken during severe drought).....	11,500,000	77,000,000	800,000

Besides reflecting losses, these figures show something of the wonderful recuperative power of Australia in good seasons. In the nine years from 1902 to 1911 cattle increased by 4,800,000 and sheep by 38,000,000, or at the rate of 5.9 per cent per annum with cattle and 6.3 per cent with sheep. The years in which the numbers of live stock attained their maxima are: cattle, 1894, 12,311,617; sheep, 1891, 106,421,068; hogs, 1917, 1,168,989. Why hog-raising has never really caught on in Australia is difficult to say. It may be because we are not pork- or bacon-eating people. As a matter of fact, the average Australian does not care for fat meat in any form.

The writer has read a statement in an American paper to the effect that Australia had lost 5,000,000 head of cattle and 20,000,000 sheep through the last drought. That this report, and others of a similar nature which have appeared elsewhere, are exaggerations is evident from the foregoing table. No drought has caused the loss of anything like the numbers of cattle mentioned, although perhaps the sheep losses may ultimately approach the figure given.

Doubtless the fact that nature is so generous in good seasons is the principal reason why droughts cause such havoc when they do occur. Under normal



TYPICAL HOMESTEAD ON SHEEP RUN
Victoria, Australia

conditions it is usually unnecessary to grow any sort of fodder crop for stock. Of course, the farmer makes hay, etc., in the ordinary round of his business; but the man who breeds and fattens stock solely seldom troubles to make any provision against the inevitable bad season. He claims that, with the high cost of labor, it does not pay to grow crops or make ensilage, and, therefore, he prefers to take the risk of being able to buy fodder, or else obtain relief country in some other part of the state. When a drought is confined to a comparatively small area, the latter alternative is usually followed; but with a widespread drought, as in 1919-20, the area of relief country is restricted and will not go round. Then fodder values rush up to famine level, and, unless a man has a pretty big bank balance behind him, he is obliged to let his stock take its chance. The above table shows clearly what that means.

That droughts may occur pretty frequently in certain localities is evidenced by meteorological records. For instance, there is a district in central New South Wales where careful records have been kept for the past eighty-two years, and of these only forty-six are described as really good, five as fair, seven as dry, and twenty-four as very dry. The average annual rainfall over the whole period was eighteen inches. This particular district is not quite so fortunate as others; for, taking the country as a whole, the average of dry years is perhaps one to four good seasons. Improvident as man

may be, nature is apparently not unmindful of the needs of stock in bad seasons, as she has provided many trees and shrubs that will keep animals alive for a long time during a severe drought. The two most important of these are the currajong and weeping myall, which are indigenous to the plains of New South Wales and the interior of the continent generally. A fair-sized currajong will feed 200 sheep for about two days, and a myall will keep the same number going for a day and a half.

Generally speaking, live stock in Australia is remarkably free from disease. Foot-and-mouth disease is unknown, and anthrax is very rare. Tuberculosis and pleuro-pneumonia are certainly present, but it is doubtful if they are as prevalent as in other countries of a similar latitude. Sheep scab was once rather bad in parts of the Commonwealth, but it has been absolutely stamped out. Fluke, and lung and stomach worms, cause trouble in wet localities and seasons, as they would anywhere else. Probably redwater is the worst disease with which cattle-owners have to contend. Ticks are bad throughout Queensland and Northern Territory, and have caused much loss. One man estimates it at \$17,500,000 to date. It must be confessed that the governments have not yet tackled the problem in such a whole-hearted manner as has been done in the United States, and until they do matters cannot be expected to improve. Although dipping is practiced, no effort has been made completely to

quarantine infected areas, with the result that the ticks continue to spread.

The greatest trial confronting sheep-owners is the blowfly. This pest is worst in the tropic and subtropic zones, and is specially troublesome in humid weather. The flies usually strike the sheep in the neighborhood of the crutch, but sometimes on the neck or at the base of the horns. The maggots work into the skin, and, unless the animal is promptly dressed, it loses condition, and death may result. The chalcid wasp, which feeds on the fly pupa, has been introduced, and, it is hoped, will ultimately reduce the pest to reasonable proportions. In the meantime, many owners have

a property into blocks with wire netting, and then destroy every rabbit in the inclosures. Even then constant vigilance is necessary to keep the pest from becoming established again. Dingos, or wild dogs, have of recent years become a serious menace to the pastoral industry in the out-back country. They are so bad in parts that some property-holders have been obliged to give up sheep entirely, and even cattle-owners find that the calves are being attacked. Endeavors are being made to keep the pest in check by the erection of high boundary netting fences and the payment of liberal scalp money; but the problem is by no means solved. The fox is the only other predatory animal,



STUD MERINO EWES ON TYPICAL RIVERINA SHEEP RUN
New South Wales

inaugurated a trapping campaign. Traps made out of old petrol tins and baited with putrid meat are used effectively. As a preventive the sheep are sprayed, on the parts likely to be affected, with a very strong poisonous dip mixture.

Apart from those things that affect animals directly, stock-owners have to fight two serious pests—viz., rabbits and dingos. Of these, rabbits are the worse. In a good season they breed with almost incredible rapidity and greatly reduce the carrying capacity of the finest pastures in eastern Australia. In addition, they have destroyed utterly tens of thousands of acres of good salt-bush country, and prevented the growth of many valuable edible trees and shrubs. It has been found that the only way of coping with the pests is to divide

and he is troublesome only in the more closely settled areas. He has acquired a taste for young lambs, and in broken country is very difficult to cope with.

The question as to which are the most popular breeds of cattle or sheep in Australia is extremely difficult to answer, except in a most general way. Obviously different breeds suit different localities, and breeders have divergent views on the subject. It is fairly safe to say that, as regards cattle which are raised for the market, Shorthorns, grade or pure, hold first place, and Herefords come a good second; further, that Hereford blood usually predominates in those localities where conditions are on the hard side. The Doddie is gradually coming into favor, but is not widely bred yet. Stock in this country usually has to rustle

for its living, and, therefore, an active, well-set-up type is preferred to the shorter-legged and shorter-necked beasts that are more in vogue in lands where stall-feeding is practiced. An analysis of the 1918-19 wool clip shows that 63.53 per cent of the total yield was Merino, the remaining 36.47 per cent being classified as cross-bred, which includes all the long-wooled and Down breeds. As in the previous year 66.93 per cent was described as Merino, it is evident that cross-breeds are rapidly gaining ground. The change is accounted for partly by the cutting-up of large holdings, which are primarily the home of the Merino flocks. Another factor that bears on this change is the growth of the

and the percentages would be somewhat different, although it is doubtful if the big men control anything like half the stock there.

The usual method of marketing stock is to consign to an agent at the public sale-yards and dispose of it by auction to the highest bidder. Each of the capital cities has its yards that are under municipal control and generally well run. Many country towns also have public yards, and others have yards that belong to a group of selling agents. Butchers obtain the bulk of their requirements at these yards, buying at so much per head. Buyers for the frozen-meat export trade also draw on the yards for supplies when values are



FAT CATTLE ON A RIVERINA RANCH
New South Wales

frozen-lamb export trade. The cross-bred is found to be a long way better lamb for export purposes than Merino. Then the long-wool breeds, such as Lincoln, Leicester, or Romney Marsh, are more popular for crossing purposes than the black-faced Downs, because the wool is more valuable if the lamb has to be held for a season.

No statistics are available that will give the relative sizes of individual herds and flocks in Australia, but it may be taken for granted that the larger proportion of the stock is held by the comparatively small man. This applies in particular to the southern and older-settled states, where probably at least 70 per cent of the sheep belong to owners of less than 10,000 head, and a similar proportion of cattle to owners of less than 2,000. The holdings in the north are larger,

favorable, but more often go into the country and purchase drafts of stock on the pastures. They are generally bought at so much per head, the buyer estimating what weight the bullock, lamb, or wether will kill, and basing his price accordingly. Occasionally cattle are purchased at so much per 100 pounds dressed weight. Under normal conditions, bullocks are marketed at from four to five years old, and a fair average dressed weight would be 680 to 700 pounds. Lambs are considered most suitable for the export trade at about five months, and, if they have not received a check, will go about thirty-four pounds. Prime cross-bred wethers, two- or four-tooth, dress about fifty pounds. It must be understood that the figures quoted refer to ordinary average lines in a normal season. In drought time the weights would be lighter.

Brand Inspection at Markets

BY J. C. UNDERWOOD

President, Wyoming Stock Growers' Association

OF THE MANY CONDITIONS surrounding the inspection of live stock at public markets most people, and even the majority of cowmen, have but a hazy conception. The importance of this work is not generally realized outside of the sections from which branded cattle are shipped. The Wyoming Stock Growers' Association was one of the first organizations to demand the right to inspect cattle at markets, and today has the most thorough system of brand inspection known. Since the year 1893, when our records began, the proceeds from stray cattle recovered for their rightful owners through our association amount to something over four million dollars.

A few years back the inspection of branded cattle was a much less tedious task than it is today. As herds grow smaller and community shipments more general, inspection becomes more complicated. In years gone by, when the large cattle companies were in the majority on the ranges, two or three good men could inspect more cattle than ten can today. Then the companies made large shipments carrying one well-defined brand. Two men might run a trainload of cattle down an alley at the yards and find practically no stray brands, as the shippers made a practice of sorting all the strays into one bunch at the loading-yards and shipping them in separate cars. This made it possible for the inspectors to give a clearance to the bulk of the cattle, and examine the strays at their leisure. One of the hard parts of inspection today is in connection with "pool" shipments. These originate where several owners have their cattle on one range and ship them together, making it necessary for the commission firms to separate the cattle into different pens, in order that each owner may receive his rightful dues, and compelling the inspectors to wait until the shipment is sorted before the brand inspection can take place.

The increased prices of cattle last year, the hard winter following, the fencing of the range by homesteaders, and the financial situation this year have caused cattle-shippers in the range country to gather every animal possible and get it to market. As a result, a large and varied lot of stray cattle has been showing up, and there has at times been an assortment of brands that it would tax the skill of an expert to decipher. Not long ago we had a shipment of fifty-seven cars on the Omaha market that required the work of several inspectors for more than a day to clean up. In another shipment of forty-eight head there were forty-five stray brands not belonging to the owner.

In late years a large number of cattle have been rebranded in some railroad yard, on their way north to the ranges, by employees who had no interest in them

other than to get them out of the yards. This has often caused the new brand to run into the old one; or, in an effort to escape the old brand, the new brand has been placed in a spot where, after it has once "set," it is very difficult to read. In numberless instances this has made it necessary to tie the animal to a fence and clip it, in order to determine the brand. In such shipments it is absolutely necessary to make a record of all the brands.

A good inspector must not only be a keen judge of brands as the animals pass by him in rapid procession, but in cases where the brands run badly into each other he must be able to determine promptly which is the original one. A brand may appear to be one thing with the hair long, and something quite different when the hair is clipped. The inspector must carry a great number of brands in his mind, in order to be ready to make a quick decision on a mixed brand. He must be able to keep his record in such shape that it can easily be made up into reports, as in case of disputes the yard record often must be depended on to settle the matter. He must also be a diplomat—every controversy must be handled firmly, yet tactfully. Differences of opinion do not necessarily mean that the shipper wishes to get the proceeds of animals not belonging to him. In the great majority of cases he claims the animals honestly, and when the clipped brands are shown to him he, as a rule, throws up his hands in surrender. Sometimes, of course, he does not—and such cases serve to illustrate the unpleasant side of an inspector's job.

There is, perhaps, a greater volume of business transacted in a given period at a stock-yard market than in any other line of commerce. The shipper is anxious to get his cattle from the cars to the pens of the commission firm, have them sold and weighed, obtain his money, and get out of town with the least possible delay. What he has worked two or three years to produce he wants to dispose of in as many hours. The commission man, on his part, is just as anxious to move the cattle as soon as it is possible to get a fill, and to sell them, in order to please his customer. Salesmen and buyers must work fast and furiously. Cattle are continually coming into and going out of the pens all up and down the alleys. In this confusion the inspector must work, and work rapidly and efficiently, in order to allow the cattle to be cleared. This means that he must be at the yards before daylight, to go over the chute-house bulletins and ascertain what consignments are coming in for the day, to what firms, and, if already yarded, what blocks and pens they are in. After getting the records, he must make the rounds of the pens to inspect the yarded cattle. At some markets, at the end of the day, a complete tally is made

to each commission firm of all shipments cleared through its pens. In other cases tallies are supplied only when asked for. Often a copy of the tally is given to the shipper, in order that he may report to the people who had cattle in the pool shipment.

Inspection of cattle has made necessary certain rules on all live-stock markets, in order that the work may proceed along well-defined lines, with as little friction as possible. First, each commission firm should understand that a load of branded cattle must not be sent to the scales, for weighing and delivery to the purchaser, until it has been inspected and a clearance given. Secondly, it must be understood that the ownership of an animal is determined by the brand it carries, and not by the claim of the shipper, unless he can show a bill-of-sale. Thirdly, each firm must have a head yardman, whose business it shall be to know where all the cattle of every shipment are yarded. It frequently happens, in sorting shipments for classification, that they are changed into different pens from those shown on the chute-house record. The head yardman should go through each pen of cattle and know the animals which the inspector orders held. This is one reason why, as a rule, cattle cannot be inspected until they are sorted and ready for sale, so that the inspector's yard tally will agree with the commission firm's slips as the various pens go to the scales. Stray animals are usually sold with the bunch of cattle with which they come in, but are weighed separately. The proceeds are held subject to the direction of the chief inspector.

The first two of these provisions are now included in the published rules and by-laws of all our Middle West markets, and the exchanges have imposed a penalty for their violation. They are pretty generally observed, however, and the majority of such infractions as have occurred have been the result of neglect on the part of employees who, in their rush to get shipments to the scales, have forgotten that the cattle may not have been inspected. Where commission firms thoroughly understand the necessity of the brand inspection there is but little trouble from their ignoring the rules. Many other matters of co-operation between stock-yard companies, commission firms, and inspectors are agreed to by mutual consent.

Not every state having made provision for inspection maintains men at all the markets. Texas has two associations engaged in this work, which keep inspectors at Kansas City, St. Joseph, and East St. Louis. While they inspect all the cattle originating in their membership territory—comprising parts of Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, and Oklahoma—they do not hold other cattle than those belonging to their members. New Mexico, up to this time, has depended entirely upon her local inspection—that is, at loading-points. Colorado and Montana each have inspection provided for by the state. Their cattle are all inspected at loading-points as well as at the markets. Colorado has men at Denver, Kansas City, St. Joseph, and Omaha; Montana, at Chicago, Sioux

City, and Omaha. Arizona maintains a loading-point inspection. A large proportion of the cattle from that state are sold on the ranges, going to the northern ranges or to the California feed-lots, and but few reach the public markets. Idaho, Washington, and Nevada have no system of inspection. Oregon inspects at the North Portland yards. Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado work their shipments adjacent to state lines for strays.

The inspection system of Wyoming is a voluntary one, maintained by the members of the Stock Growers' Association of that state. The state laws are observed, however, and all cattle originating within the state are inspected, as well as those coming from neighboring states. Wyoming also inspects, under contract, for Nebraska and South Dakota. Inspectors are maintained the year around at Kansas City, St. Joseph, Denver, Omaha, Sioux City, Chicago, and, by agreement, at St. Paul. In Omaha alone last year our men inspected 1,200,000 cattle. In most other states where inspection is maintained the proceeds of strays whose ownership is undetermined are held by the inspection service and used to defray its expenses. The Wyoming association, on the other hand, turns the proceeds of all unproved strays over to the Board of Live-Stock Commissioners. This, at times, has compelled the members of the association to meet some heavy expenses in order to maintain the service.

Aside from the equitableness of this system, its practice has given the Wyoming association an exceptionally high credit rating on the different markets. Whenever an inspector directs certain proceeds to be sent to its secretary, there is seldom any disposition to question the order. It is generally conceded that every check thus sent for a stray animal will reach its rightful owner, or that, if the owner is not known, the money will go to the agency designated by the state. If a mistake has been made at any point in the transaction, it can always be rectified. While the Wyoming association has no relief account on its ledgers, I believe this fact alone has given the association a prestige enjoyed by no other inspection system.

Inspection this year has been more tedious than ever before—partly because of the financial situation, and in part due to the extraordinary feeding expenses of last winter. Large numbers of cattle were shipped out of the state for wintering, which have been coming back to the various markets with freight and feeding charges added, ranging all the way from \$10 to \$50 per head. There are today more mortgage claims filed with our inspectors than ever before. Inspection of brands at market points has become a matter of importance, not only to stockmen, but to commission men and banks as well. The determination of ownership of animals this year is virtually an insurance department.

The Wyoming Stock Growers' Association is guided by only one principle in this work—namely, to give prompt and efficient service to its members on all the

markets, and to help stock-yard companies and commission firms make as quick a clearance of cattle consignments as possible. It is not its province either to boost or to knock any particular market, but solely to furnish a service, at any market which its members may elect, that will be as nearly perfect as it is possible to make it.

The writer has personally visited all our markets twice this year. I have found both live-stock exchanges and stock-yard companies generally willing to extend to us the necessary courtesies requested by us for our inspection service, and I believe the co-operation of the three interests has been of mutual benefit.

TO WHAT EXTENT HAS THE "INTERNATIONAL" FAILED IN ITS MISSION?

BY JAMES E. POOLE

AS I WRITE THIS, the 1920 International Live Stock Exposition is in the get-ready stage. A fifty-car train of pure-bred cattle direct from Kansas City, where it was exhibited at the American Royal Live Stock Show last week, is being unloaded at the exposition chutes. On an adjacent side-track is a train of "rangers" from the Northwest, destined for the open market. What a contrast the two present! The pure-breds range in value from \$2,500 to \$25,000—theoretically, of course—although many in the aggregation have changed hands within that range; pampered, sleek-coated specimens of bovinity, with genealogy tracing back to Noah's justly celebrated ark, man-tended from birth, protected even in transit by every possible means. The others—"just growed," as had Topsy of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" fame—landed at the stock-yards, a stone-throw from the shambles, after two to four years of effort to survive, in which a considerable percentage of their generation succumbed to the elements. Gaunt, not having had time to recover from the effects of a sub-arctic winter, in combination with a bare range and shortage of hay, they represented zero in results, financially and otherwise; the owners of many having little or no interest in price or distribution of the proceeds. Possibly the owners of the pure-breds do not always figure their ledgers without a profusion of red ink; but, so far as appearance and physical condition were concerned, this study in stock-yard contrasts naturally started a train of thought.

History of International a Spectacular One

Some two decades back certain progressive men identified with the live-stock industry launched the International Live Stock Exposition. In a spectacular sense, its record has been all that the most extravagant dreamer at that stage of the industry could have imagined. Each December finds the bovine seed stock of North America assembled at Chicago, acclaimed by enthusiastic lay and expert throngs. The storehouse of adjectival wealth is ransacked by as clever a corps of journalists as ever juggled with the American language in describing the event; but outside, in the open market, the same daily display of cold-blooded, counterfeit, scrub, multicolored, slab-sided commercial beef animals is made. The International has undoubtedly aroused public interest in improved cattle; but what practical influence has it exerted on beef manufacture and the profits that should accrue from that industry? Has the general character of the commercial cattle sold on the public markets of the United States improved during that period, and is the rank and file of cattle-raisers getting maximum results from their efforts?

General Run of Cattle Has Not Improved

If the increasingly large proportion of inferior beef cattle in the supply is a criterion, the answer to this interrogatory

must be in the negative. It is true that the historic Texas Longhorn, with its tawny coat and ragged profile, has practically disappeared; but do the cattle that come annually from the great pastures of the Northwest, or the feed-lots of the Corn Belt, reflect the improvement exhibited by the pure-breds at the International? Emphatically no! The general make-up of the beef-offering at any of the markets is steadily retrograding. Is it due to unintelligent breeding, or to lack of care? Both, in a measure. Logical lack of interest is also a factor. During the twenty years marked by the career of the International the average cattle-grower has had little incentive for improvement enterprise. That period has been one of almost continuous vicissitude for the industry. Those who risked their money in that sphere of endeavor—not wisely, but too well perhaps—have "gone broke" by the thousand. In the main it has been a period of disastrous liquidation for the industry. Big cattle outfits by the hundred have gathered the last critter and struck a final balance-sheet; thousands of "nesters," "creek-men," and others, representing the smaller fry of the industry, have scored similar failure. The entire twenty-year chapter of cattle-trade history has demonstrated that in the finality of beef-making but four certainties exist. One is that, if they survive the elements, the packer ultimately gets the cattle; the second, that the carrier collects one or more freight bills—and the cattle of North America have been notoriously junketudinous from necessity or in response to speculative activity; the third, that the commission man pockets his charge; and the fourth, that some stock-yard company collects feed bills and yardage. The farmer feeder has had another certainty—the manure; a by-product that, in the case of the western grazer, is as valuable as the ambient atmosphere in excess of the small volume he needs to inflate his lungs.

Twenty Years of Unsatisfactory Results

Little wonder, then, that practical cattledom has not reflected the improvement exhibited by the seed stock of the country, due in large measure to generous importations from the British Isles. The practical cattleman has been engaged, much of the time, in an effort to raise the wherewithal to meet maturing loans; or, when his cattle have gone to market, to secure accommodation necessary to restock his pastures. Always the farmer feeder has at least had the manure for his pains, putting him in a relatively better position than the grazer; but in the main it has been a twenty-year period of unsatisfactory results. Today the same category of complaint agitates the atmosphere, wherever a few cattlemen gather together, as it did in 1900 when John W. Springer's eloquence christened the International Live Stock Exposition. The glare of light and clashing of cymbals in the International arena this week are not reflected out in the stock-yards, where cattlemen sit on fence-tops disconsolate, as trading tardily progresses, and they are moved to earnest but logical profanity as they learn results.

Cattleman Himself Not Without Blame

Possibly the cattleman is in a measure to blame for this condition. J. Ogden Armour recently, in one of those periodical proclamations that emanate from the inner circles of Packingtown, contrasted pictorially the scrub and the well-bred steer, accompanied by the slogan that "it costs as much to produce one as the other." Certainly there has been a paucity of good bulls where most of the commercial cattle supply of the country originates—otherwise it would have more reason for pride of ancestry—and the bull-offering at the market tells a mute but eloquent story of the disadvantage under which the industry has labored in the initial stage; but to the average cattle-grower the prospect has rarely been sufficiently inviting to warrant expenditure in such bulls as the International showing affords. This policy has undoubtedly been a mistaken one; it has been profitable to the killer, but otherwise to the

producer, who would have achieved more substantial results by growing fewer but better cattle.

Maturing Period Should Be Shortened

In one respect the International Live Stock Exposition has been highly educational. When the late Dan Black, of Ohio, at the third year's show captured sweepstakes in the car-lot class with a load of J A yearlings, bred on the Adair ranch in Texas, he taught cattledom a valuable lesson that has borne productive results. Today most of the beef cattle born east of the Missouri River go to market in the yearling stage. Some of them are well bred, others indifferently, and still more badly; but most of them make money, even when their owners pay the prices which Frank Hastings, of S M S fame, puts on his bovine youngsters. In the yearling stage the bad qualities of an animal loom up less prominently than later; hence the soundness of the early-maturity idea; but under western maturing conditions this is impossible. No good reason can be advanced, however, why the period of beef production, even in the pastoral region west of the Missouri River, where pampering in calfhood is impracticable, should not be materially reduced. The four- and five-year-old steer is an anachronism; properly bred and properly cared for, no bullock should spend more than three years between calfhood and the beef-cooler. Reducing the period of production facilitates the turn-over of capital, reduces risk, and makes possible maximum results.

Market Instability of Old Standing

The present situation is so analogous to that of the early stages of the International that it recalls a Saddle and Sirloin Club episode in which the late L. H. Kerrick, that season winner of the grand championship in the car-lot class, and J. Ogden Armour participated. Then as now the show sale had elicited producers' protests, and on the open cattle market the same price instability aroused criticism. Armour and Kerrick were talking trade conditions over, with such divergence of opinion as might be expected when a producer and a packer "sat in," when Kerrick said: "Mr. Armour, I will venture the prediction that, unless a reform is effected in market conditions, the time will come when McLean County (Illinois) will not boast of a single feed-lot." "Well, it's a big country," responded Armour. Kerrick's soul has been marching on these many years, but his prediction has been all but verified; only one of the old school of cattle-feeders in McLean County—Thomas Rust—surviving. The leopard does not change his spots, neither do market conditions improve. Instability was the topic when Armour and Kerrick talked on cattle matters that day at the Saddle and Sirloin Club; this year a conference on the same subject is scheduled at the same place and the same time. Verily, everything on this mundane sphere is "old stuff."

Poor Quality of Cattle Due to Low Prices

Returning to the previous question, it may be asserted, without risk of successful contradiction, that the present indifferent quality of the commercial cattle of the country is due largely to unremunerative markets. M. F. Horine, statistician for the Chicago Stock Yards Company, recently published a little book on the subject, in which he, in convincing manner, specified causes responsible for these conditions over a series of years. Minus incentive, the industry has languished until a load of prime bullocks even at Chicago causes comment. Beef-gathering west of the Missouri River this season has sent more "dogs" to the market than ever before—probably because the clean-up has been drastic; but the fact is indisputable that deterioration has been going on these many years past. The late Conrad Kohrs, of Montana, commented on this when on his last trip to Chicago, contrasting the range cattle on the market then with the big Shorthorns of a quarter of a century back that came from Montana pastures; and the cattle of today from the Alberta range in western Canada, where breeding standards have been to some extent maintained, tell the story

of what might be. During the third week of November, when 40,000 range cattle reached Chicago, \$9 was the limit on western rangers, while a few Canadian grassers were eligible to \$11 by reason of superior quality. D. D. Cutler, general live-stock agent of the Northwestern system, surveying a Monday run, mostly from Iowa feed-lots, said recently: "Forty years ago Iowa sent better cattle than these to Chicago."

That all the commercial cattle of the country are scrubs or counterfeits must not be assumed, but the character of steer supply may be inferred from the fact that, while a few qualified Shorthorns, Herefords, and Angus steers have recently sold at \$18 to \$18.50 per cwt. on the Chicago market, the bulk of supply has been appraised below \$13, and the \$7 to \$10 kinds have been conspicuous. This condition is due partly to deficient condition, but quality, or lack of it, is the factor of primary importance.

Many Evils Flow from Abundance of Inferior Stuff

The presence of this mass of inferior cattle at the market is responsible in no small measure for many trade evils, including wild fluctuations. Numbers count, and, while the record one-week run of nearly 112,000 cattle at Chicago in November, and a veritable glut at Kansas City simultaneously, may have been woefully deficient in beef, prices crashed under the numerical handicap. Advocacy of reduced production may be heretical, but it would be to the distinct advantage of the producer if numbers at the market could be curtailed 25 to 40 per cent, and quality increased in proportion. When the western half of the continent was carpeted with free grass, and expense of running cattle on the open range was nominal, growing nondescripts may have been excusable; but this palliation of an obviously bad policy no longer exists. Despite Mr. Armour's assertion to the contrary, a good steer costs more to raise; but the scrub never made a dollar for anyone save the railroad, the commission man, and the packer.

This mass of common beef damages the market from September to May. During the period of gathering it gluts distributive channels, to the detriment of good cattle, as the distributor always prefers "cheap stuff" on which he is able to exact maximum profits. The packer stores the excess in his coolers, for winter and spring distribution; this accumulation constituting a menace over the market as long as it exists. If the production of common cattle were profitable, there would be reasonable excuse for the present practice.

International Ornate Display of Selected Goods

Premier of live-stock shows, the International Exposition has failed in its avowed mission in this respect. Undoubtedly it has propagated the pure-bred phase of the industry, but its influence on the general run of steers reaching the public markets of the country has been negligible. It is an ornate show-case, full of exquisite goods displayed in proximity to a mass of mediocrity and trash. And all the other shows of similar character—lesser lights in the exposition firmament—are in the same category. Their mission has yet to be fulfilled; possibly the period of achievement is at hand.

LOWER FREIGHT RATES ON LIVE STOCK

A "FIGHT TO THE LAST DITCH" for a reduction in carrying charges on live stock and farm products has been launched by the National Live Stock Shippers' Protective League. Producers and shippers of live stock, commission companies, bankers and business men in the stock-growing states, and all other interests concerned, have been earnestly urged to join hands in an effort to convince the Interstate Commerce Commission that the prevailing freight rates, especially in view of the ruinous conditions surrounding the live-stock industry at present, are excessive, unreasonable, and a heavy additional burden which the producer should not be asked to bear.

CONFERENCE ON LIVE-STOCK LOSSES

RAILROAD AND PACKERS' REPRESENTATIVES were in a decided majority at the November conference in Chicago over live-stock abuses. A few commission men took only passive interest, packers were as voluble as ever in deploring their losses due to bruised live stock, and every railroader present had a chip on his shoulder, on the alert to resent even an intimation that the carriers or their employees were responsible. W. T. Treleaven, general live-stock agent of the Santa Fe, stated that more bruising and crippling of live stock was done after unloading at the stock-yards than while in transit. It was evident that the railroad element was on the ground to prevent anything being "put over" that would savor of criticism of the carriers. Packers' sole complaint was concerning losses due to bruised meats. As the other fellow's ox is gored when mortality occurs in transit, that theme was lost sight of. Producers were not represented, as at former conferences, even "Joe" Mercer, of Kansas, failing to respond to the roll-call. The result was the appointment of a committee to launch a nation-wide campaign, with "Stop abuse of live stock!" as a slogan.

Dr. Embree, a prominent "vet" in the employ of western railroads, contended that most of the heavy hog mortality in transit was due to injudicious driving to interior loading-points, hogs going aboard the cars exhausted. This is in line with the general railroad policy to repudiate responsibility. Embree is undoubtedly right, but the carriers kill many thousand hogs in transit during hot weather that would reach the market on four legs if handled humanely and intelligently. The attitude of the operating department of most railroads is antagonistic to live stock, and this is reflected in the actions of trainmen and other employees. This is illustrated by what the superintendent of the Iowa division of one of the big live-stock carriers said to its general live-stock agent recently. Shippers had made complaint of ill-treatment on that particular division so voluminous and convincing that it could no longer be ignored at headquarters in Chicago, the live-stock agent getting instructions to remedy matters. "Hell! I wish we could get rid of this live-stock business entirely!" was the response of the offending division superintendent. "Give me dead freight any old time!"

The carriers are certainly responsible in no small measure for losses to live-stock shippers after the product leaves the feed-lot or pasture. At the stock-yards handling conditions are far from ideal, the club and other weapons being still in common use. Nor are the packers' employees immune to criticism. The Bureau of Markets could profitably devote some of its energy to stopping the abuse to which live stock is subjected at the markets. A few drastic examples would be ample.

CO-OPERATIVE PACKING PLANTS

WHILE THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT looms large in the industrial development of the day, its progress, as might have been expected, has not been saved from the wreckage marking the path of every economic reform. Of the causes for failures we have previously mentioned one—the advantage taken by unscrupulous promoters of the appeal carried at the present moment by the very word "co-operation." Another potent reason, as a contributor to the *Breeder's Gazette* points out, has been a lack of understanding of its basic idea, and of willingness or ability to subordinate individual interests to its requirements.

As an instance of a co-operative enterprise that evidently has steered clear of both of these reefs the writer mentions the Equity Co-operative Packing Plant at Fargo, North Dakota. Having been in operation for little more than a year, this plant has already handled 4,500 cars of live stock, at a total

saving to shipper members, on yardage and commissions, of \$247,500, or \$55 per car. The yards can take care of 60 cars daily, and the killing capacity of the plant is 1,000 hogs and 400 cattle a day. Between 200 and 250 men are regularly employed. Branch houses and agencies have been established in half a dozen important centers of the East and Middle West, and \$500,000 worth of products have been shipped into Canada. The company operates its own refrigerator cars. The total volume of its turn-over to date exceeds \$10,000,000.

This institution draws its patronage not only from the farmers of North Dakota, but from those of adjoining states. Its organization has been effected along essentially co-operative lines. Each stockholder is limited to 1,000 shares of stock, and is entitled to only one vote. The initiative and referendum, and other democratic policies, have been provided for in the management. Indications point to a rapid expansion of the plant.

Another co-operative undertaking which gives every promise of success is the Farmers' Terminal Packing Company of Newport, Minnesota—near South St. Paul. During the few months of its operation this plant has already shown a handsome profit. It is somewhat larger than the Fargo plant, and is organized along practically the same lines.

What the farmers and stock-raisers of the Northwest have done through these two enterprises, producers in other sections of the country have it in their power to accomplish, provided they approach the problem in the right spirit. A favorable environment, an accessible market, organizing talent, the necessary working capital, integrity and economy of management—these things, of course, are essentials; but added to these, to assure success, must be a capacity for team-work.

ARE SHEEP AN ECONOMICAL HOG FEED?

PACKERS EMPLOY A CORPS of economic experts, whose task is to unravel knotty problems connected with the industry. Here is one: Tankage is quoted at \$80 to \$90 per ton; when hogs were \$17 to \$18 per cwt., \$105 was the price. The logical answer would be that the present tankage supply is a by-product of hogs bought at much higher than current prices. But a Chicago commission house has issued a circular advising hog-feeders to quit buying tankage, substituting sheep as hog feed. It sets forth that fat sheep are realizing anywhere from \$50 to \$85 per ton, and that a ton of live sheep would yield at least \$25 worth of wool, not to speak of skins, making the meat cheaper feed than tankage. It also contends—not illogically—that, as packers are unable to sell mutton, farmers would relieve the congestion at the market by feeding sheep to hogs, thereby saving freight bills, commissions, and other expenses. The problem is respectfully referred to the research experts of the Institute of American Meat Packers, who have an ingenious, if not always satisfactory, method of solving such riddles. It is just possible that some sections of the country may find corn cheaper than coal, and mutton less costly for hog feed than tankage.

Another sheep-house puzzle is a trade in old range ewes at \$1.50 per cwt., or \$30 per ton, that consume \$50 hay while awaiting sale.

The present situation is somewhat analogous to that of a remote period in trade history, when A. J. Knollin, of Soda Springs, Idaho, loaded a car with hogs and sheep at a Kansas point. En route to Kansas City the hogs broke through the barrier, devouring their ovine traveling companions. As hogs were worth \$7 per cwt. and sheep \$3 at Kansas City, Knollin insisted that he was \$4 per cwt. ahead on the conversion.

Present conditions in the sheep trade recall Sam Cowan's anecdote concerning a Texan who sent a train of sheep to Kansas City years ago. The commission house wired him to send money to cover a deficiency in freight charges, whereupon he replied: "Have no money; will send more sheep."

THE WOOL SITUATION—PROPOSED REMEDIES

IN A CIRCULAR LETTER addressed to bankers in the wool-growing states, the National Wool Warehouse and Storage Company of Chicago thus sets forth its views of the wool situation and of remedies to be sought in the present crisis:

"Seemingly the mills of this country have been able to carry on their operations this season without having to come into the market for much of the domestic clip of 1920, with the result that very much the larger part of the entire wool production will remain in the hands of the growers or their commission agents at the beginning of the new year.

"The serious difficulties that have been encountered in financing and carrying this large tonnage of wool through a long season of financial depression, sagging markets, and little or no demand, suggest the necessity of giving earnest thought at once to the matter of carrying next season's clip, which will soon be on hand, in a way whereby the wool-growing industry of the country may be better secured.

"Urgent appeal will be made to Congress, at its forthcoming session in December, to provide emergency legislation against the dumping of wools from foreign accumulations into this country, which, if unrestricted, would add greatly to the danger of the situation, not only because of the low prices at which these wools can be bought, but more especially because of the increased buying power which American exchange would have in the purchase of foreign wools for speculative purposes. If, through the co-ordinated efforts of all the parties in interest, this danger can be averted, there will still remain the necessity of arranging a safe and dependable plan upon which the two seasons' clips can be financed and held for distribution to normal demand as markets regain activity.

"It has been suggested that syndicates of banks in the wool-growing sections could most effectively meet the requirements with respect to the handling of wool paper on a large scale, and that in this way the assistance of the large banking interests of the country might be successfully solicited, thus distributing the burden over a wider area. This matter must have early attention.

"The most pressing need, however, at this moment is for concerted action by all parties in interest to secure the passage of emergency legislation at the coming session of Congress in December, and it is our judgment that no time should be lost to get such a movement under way.

"We believe much good would result from legislation somewhat along these lines: (1) To prevent the dumping on our shores of wools from foreign countries, while the supply at home is more than ample and seeking a market. (2) To arrange for the sale to such countries as can use them of the low carpet wools left in the hands of the government since the war. Being offered from time to time at ruinous bargain-counter prices, these wools, unless disposed of in the manner suggested, will continue to exercise a depressing influence on our home markets. (3) To amend the Federal Reserve Act so as to provide a separate classification for wool paper secured by recognized warehouse receipts, under which such paper may be carried for twelve months. This would seem justified in view of the fact that a full year is required, even under normal conditions, to market a season's clip.

"Some legislation of this character would tend to restore confidence in wool paper and lend support to wool markets until our present accumulation can be disposed of in an orderly way to normal demand. It is our view that the initiative in a matter of this kind must be taken by the banks in the sections to be served, and that, if taken in a spirit of determination and good faith, it will succeed."

PROTECTION DEMANDED FOR FOOD-PRODUCER

MEANS OF SAFEGUARDING the interests of agricultural producers were discussed at the annual convention of the Farmers' Union, held at Kansas City, Mo., November 16-18, at which delegates from twenty-seven states were present. The most important action taken was the adoption of a resolution urging farmers to withhold this year's crops from the markets until prices are restored to a profitable level. The same resolution recommended that, unless prices are restored to such a basis, farmers devise steps to curtail future production.

Other resolutions indorsed the work of the Federal Trade Commission, demanding "effective legislation to correct the abuses and stop the extortions of the meat-packing industry;" upheld the principles of the Volstead bill, designed to legalize collective bargaining by farmers; condemned "the policy of the Federal Reserve Board in raising rediscount rates and curtailing credits to those engaged in producing and marketing agricultural products," and demanded that "the facilities of the federal reserve banks be made equally accessible to all who are engaged in making or marketing the necessities of life;" urging "the organization of co-operative banks, both state and national, and of trust companies and credit unions."

TO RELIEVE NEEDS OF CATTLE-RAISERS

AN ANNOUNCEMENT was made in Chicago last month of the formation of the "Live Stock Finance Corporation"—an organization for the relief of western cattlemen and the conservation of the country's meat supplies. The corporation will have a capital of more than \$22,000,000 with which to start its work, and will begin functioning at once. The stock has been taken by banks in the big financial centers.

The primary object of the new corporation is to relieve the present financial tension by purchasing properly indorsed live-stock paper from banks and cattle-loan companies, at a discount of 10 per cent. Funds will be advanced on stockers and feeders as well as on range cattle. Loans will be made to mature January 1, 1922; but this rule may be relaxed where special conditions warrant.

Rates of interest have not been announced, but it is thought that they will fluctuate with the money market. It is presumed that inspections of collateral back of the loans will be left in the hands of country banks and cattle-loan companies, and that the new corporation will not make loans direct. The corporation, it is said, will be officered by bankers from the different cities where capital stock has been taken.

BUYING FEEDERS DIRECT FROM RANCHES

AS AN AID in escaping from the violent fluctuations of the cattle market, Howard Guilfoil, of Brownlee, Nebraska, advocates the buying of feeders direct from the ranches. Writing in the *Breeder's Gazette* of November 4, Mr. Guilfoil says:

"I notice that Corn Belt feeders are trying to work out some marketing system to do away with big runs and market slumps. One plan that will aid materially—and it will soon be taken up by range cattlemen—is to induce feeders to buy direct from the ranches. This would keep a great many of the feeder cattle off the central markets, and in no case should a feeder buy from a speculator if he goes to market. Get them from first hands. All should insist on this. We do not like to put feeders on the market, as it means a useless waste in handling cattle, extra loading and unloading, bruises, and an increase in freight, yardage, and commissions, which the grower and Corn Belt feeder have to pay; and, since producers have to trim expenses, this is one way in which to begin trimming. Keeping feeders from the big markets would help maintain beef prices by keeping back excessive runs.

"I hope that Corn Belt men will give this matter due consideration, as the suggested plan would benefit both grower and feeder."

"EAT-MORE-MEAT" CAMPAIGN UNDER WAY

AS THE FIRST STEP in a planned nation-wide campaign for the increased consumption of meat, a conference was held at Chicago on December 2—during the week of the International Live Stock Exposition. While the initiative has been taken by the National Swine Growers' Association, it is desired to include in the movement beef and mutton as well as pork, and invitations to send representatives were extended to live-stock organizations, the general and agricultural press, live-stock exchanges, and meat-packers throughout the country.

DOURINE IN HORSES

DOURINE (from the Arabic word meaning "unclean") is an infectious disease of horses and asses supposed to have been introduced into Europe in the early part of the nineteenth century through the importation of Arab stallions. In the United States it was first recognized in 1886, and was traced to a stallion imported from France. Since then sporadic outbreaks of the disease have occurred in different parts of this country and Canada. It has been especially prevalent on the Indian reservations of the West. Excellent progress has, however, been made in its control, and its complete eradication is hoped for in the near future.

Dourine is a disease of breeding animals, caused by a microscopic parasite scientifically known as *Trypanosoma equiperdum*. It is transmitted through the act of copulation. The first symptoms, appearing from eight days to two months after exposure, manifest themselves in and around the genital organs with swelling, enlargement of the lymphatic glands, blisters which on breaking give forth a yellowish discharge, and ulceration. The ulcers tend to heal rapidly, leaving white, permanent scars. As a rule, however, the recovery is only apparent; any excessive work or excitement may cause the disease to break out anew. Pregnant mares will sometimes abort, although fine colts have been born to affected mothers. In many cases the disease remains latent, exhibiting no outward symptoms; but even in this stage it may be transmitted by coitus.

The second stage of dourine shows pronounced nervous and constitutional changes, brought about by the entrance into the blood-stream of the poisons produced by the microbes. The gait of the animal now becomes staggering and irregular, especially in the hind legs. Round, flat swellings may break out on various parts of the body. When these are punctured, a bloody serum exudes. There may also be an itching inflammation of the skin, labored breathing, and discharge from the nostrils. The paralysis, as a rule, progresses rapidly, and occasionally may extend to the fore legs and face. The animal becomes extremely emaciated, although its appetite remains good. Finally it goes down, is unable to rise, and dies of exhaustion.

The course of the disease is greatly influenced by the conditions and environment in which the animal lives. Bad weather, exposure, hard work, insufficient food, etc., will hasten a fatal termination. On the other hand, good care will prolong life, and may even result in recovery. The outlook, however, must always be regarded as unfavorable, and, as the number of infected animals in this country is relatively small, temporizing measures are never justified.

Since physical symptoms of dourine are not always present, experimental work has been undertaken with a view to finding a positive method of establishing the presence of the disease. This has resulted in the discovery of a test similar to the "complement-fixation" test employed in the diagnosis of glander. It is based on the well-known blood-serum principle. By its use it is possible to detect even latent cases of dourine. The Bureau of Animal Industry offers to apply this test when samples of blood from suspected animals are submitted to it for examination.

Little benefit is to be obtained from the use of drugs in the treatment of dourine. Sanitary measures alone must be depended on. To stamp out the disease, affected animals should be prevented from breeding, and should be destroyed as soon as possible. The owner who thus contributes his share toward the extirpation of the infection is reimbursed for his loss, state and federal governments sharing the expense equally.

Copies of Farmers' Bulletin 1146, of whose contents the above is a summary, may be had on application to the Division of Publications, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

GARBAGE AS A HOG FEED

IN OUR OCTOBER NUMBER we gave a concrete illustration of the successful feeding of city garbage to hogs.* This subject is exhaustively dealt with in Farmers' Bulletin 1133, recently issued by the Department of Agriculture, from whose summary of observations and experiments we quote as follows:

"Among the points of practical application in feeding garbage to swine, the following are of particular importance in the light of present knowledge on the subject:

"The waste food products of more than 8,000,000 people are being fed to swine, and fully 40,000,000 pounds of garbage-fed pork are sold annually.

"Garbage varies greatly in composition, but on an average, and allowing for normal losses, a ton of municipal garbage may be expected to produce forty pounds of marketable live weight of hog.

"The garbage must be collected with reasonable frequency, and be free from tin cans, soap, broken glass, and other undesirable or injurious foreign articles. The public should be kept informed that garbage is being fed.

"Usually it is best for the cities to make the garbage collections, and then dispose of the garbage to individuals, associations, or corporations on a contract basis, unless the city operates its own hog-feeding farm.

"Long-time contracts are likely to be most satisfactory to all concerned; besides, they tend toward a better class of equipment and more sanitary conditions.

"The pigs to be fed may be bought as feeders or may be raised. Each method has given good results under suitable conditions.

"Methods of feeding, handling, housing, and care may differ considerably, so long as the essentials of sanitation and hog comfort are observed. Equipment for feeding should be adapted to the type of garbage available, and to local conditions, climate, and transportation.

"Raw garbage generally is better for hogs than cooked garbage. Frozen garbage, however, should be thawed before feeding.

"As a rule, the use of grain as a supplementary feed for the garbage is not an economical practice, but may be used to advantage when the supply of garbage is temporarily short.

"Hogs to be fed garbage need to be immunized against cholera—preferably by the double or simultaneous treatment. Thorough immunization is very important because of the presence of raw pork scraps frequently deposited in garbage cans.

"Garbage-fed hogs show no greater susceptibility to tuberculosis, pneumonia, or kindred diseases than grain-fed animals.

"Pork from garbage-fed hogs is as good in quality as pork resulting from other feeds, and average garbage-fed hogs sell at practically the same prices as average grain-fed animals."

*"Turning Garbage into Bacon," THE PRODUCER, October, 1920, pp. 11-13.

THE CALENDAR

December 17-18—Annual Convention of Nevada Live Stock Association, Reno, Nev.

December 21-22—Annual Convention of Colorado Stock Growers' Association, Denver, Colo.

January 6-8, 1921—Ogden Live Stock Show, Ogden, Utah.

January 6-8, 1921—Annual Convention of Wyoming Wool Growers' Association, Casper, Wyo.

January 12-14, 1921—Twenty-fourth Annual Convention of American National Live Stock Association, El Paso, Tex.

January 15-22, 1921—National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colo.

January 17-19, 1921—Annual Convention of National Wool Growers' Association, Salt Lake City, Utah.

January 24-29, 1921—Kansas National Live Stock Exposition and Feeder Show, Wichita, Kan.

February 16-18, 1921—Annual Convention of Kansas Live Stock Association, Salina, Kan.

February 22-24, 1921—Annual Convention of Buyers' and Sellers' Live Stock Association, Amarillo, Tex.

If your subscription has expired, please renew!

THE PRODUCER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

IN THE INTERESTS OF THE

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THE CONVENTION

All stockmen are invited to attend the Twenty-fourth Annual Convention of the American National Live Stock Association, to be held at Liberty Hall, El Paso, Texas, January 12, 13, and 14, 1921; sessions commencing at 10 o'clock A. M., January 12.

Following is a list of some of the speakers and the subjects of their addresses:

"Credit Problems of the Live-Stock Industry," Hon. W. C. P. Harding, Governor of the Federal Reserve Board.

"Tendencies in the Live-Stock Industry at Home and Abroad," Hon. W. S. Culbertson, Member of the United States Tariff Commission.

"Live-Stock Conditions in Canada," Hon. S. F. Tolmie, Minister of Agriculture, Dominion of Canada.

"Some Negative Factors in the Production of Beef," Professor W. A. Cochel, Kansas City, Mo.

"Grazing on National Forests," W. C. Barnes, Associate Forester, Washington, D. C.

"Marketing Problems," James E. Poole, Chicago, Ill.

"Necessity for Organization," Sam H. Cowan, Attorney of the American National Live Stock Association, Fort Worth, Tex.

Hon. J. B. Kendrick, President of the Association, in his annual address will review the legislative program of the Association.

The Standing Committees of the Association will submit their reports. Any stockman wishing to discuss any question with the Standing Committees will be given an opportunity to do so.

There will be full discussion of the financial situation, the tariff, meat-packing legislation, the threatened advance in grazing fees, and many other questions.

REDUCED FARES TO CONVENTION

The railroads have promised a special rate of one fare and one-half from Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona on the certificate plan. To avail themselves of this, stockmen from those states should buy their tickets to El Paso at the regular rate, and take a receipt therefor; upon presentation of the receipt a fare of one-half will be granted on the return journey. We suggest that stockmen from all other territory buy the regular winter tourist ticket to El Paso, which allows stop-over privileges en route, as explained in the call appearing in the November PRODUCER.

Hotel accommodations may be reserved by communicating with the El Paso Chamber of Commerce.

Headquarters of the Association during the convention will be at the Paso del Norte Hotel.

Isaac Baer

With deep regret we record the tragic death of Isaac Baer, late of Meeker, Colorado, who, with his wife, was killed in an automobile accident near Domingo, New Mexico, on November 16. Mr. Baer had withdrawn from most of his business connections, and was on his way to southern California, where he had planned to spend the winter, when the machine in which he was traveling was struck by a train. Mrs. Baer's death was instantaneous; Mr. Baer survived only a few hours.

Isaac Baer was born in Germany about seventy years ago. Coming to the United States as a young man, he first settled in Houston, Texas; later moving to Leadville, Colorado. While in the latter place he became interested in the live-stock range business near Meeker, where he established his home. He was actively identified with many of the industries in that section, and had been a prominent figure in the affairs of Colorado for a quarter of a century. He was president of the state live-stock association for several years, had been a member of the American National Live Stock Association since its organization, and at the time of his death was one of its vice-presidents.

Mr. Baer possessed a lovable character, high ideals, generous impulses, and marked ability. He was proud of the country of his adoption, and represented the very best type of its citizenship. His genial personality will be missed in the councils of our association.

GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

DEFLATION is pursuing its uneven course, zig-zagging its way to lower price-levels; but the movement has as yet not become sufficiently pronounced or widespread to stimulate buying on an extensive scale. Consumers are still holding back, waiting for further reductions, and such revival as the holiday season may bring is expected to be of only a temporary character. Difficulty experienced by retailers in disposing of merchandise bought at former higher prices is curtailing new orders, with a consequent restriction of output and growing unemployment in manufacturing centers, which in turn are affecting retail trade unfavorably. Stagnation has been especially marked in the dry-goods, iron and steel, lumber, and automobile industries.

The wool market remains in a comatose condition, although some manufacturers are taking considerable quantities of good grades at lower prices than any yet mentioned. Cotton is moving a little more freely. A notable feature in the hide market has been the announcement of a transaction involving upward of 700,000 packer hides, which is taken to indicate that the long period of stagnation from which this commodity has suffered is about to end. Lower prices are quoted on wheat than have been witnessed for several years past. Corn in Iowa and Nebraska is selling at 50 cents, and oats at 30 to 35 cents. Live-stock market conditions are described in detail elsewhere in these columns.

Collections are slow. Commercial failures show a slight increase—an inevitable concomitant of readjustment. The stock market has rallied somewhat, and money is a trifle easier. Foreign exchange continues depressed.

Bradstreet's index number for the week ending November 27, based on the prices per pound of thirty-one articles used for food, was \$3.80, compared with \$3.99 for the previous week, \$4.07 for the last week in October, and \$5.10 for the corresponding week a year ago.

WHAT WAS THE FEDERAL RESERVE ACT FOR?

THE FARMERS' NATIONAL BANK of Sterling, Colorado, was closed by a national-bank examiner on November 29. There was no charge of any crookedness on the part of the officials, or of misapplication of funds, and no intimation that the loans of the bank were not good. In fact, it is stated that the depositors will be paid in full when the assets are liquidated, and probably the bank will be reopened. The reason assigned for closing it was that its loans were disproportionate to cash on hand. Presumptively, when these loans were made they bore a legal relationship to deposits and reserves. Bank loans are usually made for a stated time. But few call loans are made

in the West. Deposits, however, are subject to demand. Whenever deposits shrink, without a corresponding reduction in loans, the balance between them is changed. This may occur in almost any bank, without the soundness of the institution being seriously affected. It is reported that two Denver banks, correspondents of the Farmers' National Bank at Sterling, were willing to advance most of the necessary funds to meet the emergency, provided the Federal Reserve Bank at Kansas City would also assist, but that the latter bank flatly declined to do anything.

Deposits have lately decreased in all producing sections of the country, through inability to dispose of farm products at anything but a ruinous price—far below the cost of production—as the result of a tendency to hold for a better price, or because of the utter impossibility to sell at all, as in the case of wool. In such circumstances many producers are compelled to draw heavily on their bank balances for their daily needs, and many others are forced to renew their loans.

The Federal Reserve Law was enacted to meet exactly such a condition and to extend credit to tide over the emergency period. One great trouble in the situation today is that there are too many banks in producing sections "playing safe" to the extent that they will not take on a normal amount of loans. They fear that the Federal Reserve Board might turn a deaf ear to their appeal, should they be so unfortunate as to have their reserves, deposits, and loans get out of joint. The attitude of the Federal Reserve Board in the case of the Sterling bank lends color to that fear. As we have frequently observed in these columns, the administration of the Federal Reserve Act, particularly in the Tenth District, has been a lamentable failure, so far as furnishing reasonable credit to producers was concerned.

THE LAST RESORT

THE AVERAGE PERSON must be somewhat bewildered by the maze of meetings and conferences, announcements of policy, and demands for changes in marketing machinery, elimination of unnecessary middlemen's profits, and adequate financial assistance, etc., on the part of the many organizations representing the producers of this country. The daily press is filled with accounts of these activities, and even the casual reader should by this time have awakened to some conception of the seriousness of the problem confronting the tiller of the soil. The complacent assumption of consumers that there will always be an unfailing supply of food may be rudely shattered, unless conditions change. As Congress convenes, there is a small army of statesmen proposing remedies for the salvation of our nation from such a dire calamity. Very tardily has come a realization of the fact that our national welfare is bottomed upon the prosperity of that one-third of our population engaged in pastoral and agricultural pursuits.

Farm organizations are advocating many plans for the relief of the present disastrous situation of ruinous prices for their products. If all other remedies fail, they intend, as a last resort, to urge the restriction of production. At the annual convention of the Farmers' Union recently held in Kansas City, Missouri, a resolution was adopted condemning market manipulations and middlemen's charges, urging farmers to hold their crops until prices are restored to a reasonable level, and finally, if such action does not bring results, proposing "that farmers devise plans for a substantial reduction in production for the coming year or years." This latter alternative may be the easiest, and perhaps the only, way out of the present dilemma.

GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY FOR CANADIAN STOCK-RAISERS

B ESET WITH SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES as are today confronting the stockmen of this country, the live-stock industry of Canada has the advantage of a government keenly alive to the necessity of promoting its interests in every legitimate way. In spite of the demoralized state of her finances, compared with which our own fiscal problems seem of modest proportions, Canada has not hesitated to extend direct and substantial aid to her food-producers—in sharp contrast to the frigid reception given appeals from the same quarter on this side of the border.

In the Dominion, it seems, the authorities do not wait to be asked. Taking cognizance of an emergency known to exist, they have adopted the policy of meeting it promptly by suggesting remedies of their own accord. From a circular letter, bearing date of September 30, 1920, sent out to farmers of western Canada by the Dominion Department of Agriculture, we quote the following paragraphs:

Has it ever occurred to you that it would be good business to look over your herd of cattle and dispose of the ones which are of poor quality?

With the present high prices for grain, hay, and labor, it pays only to keep the best.

This is an opportune time to sell some of your poorest animals, and invest in some choice breeding heifers. Breeding heifers are now selling at pre-war prices at the various stock-yards in western Canada.

To assist those wishing to make purchases, the Dominion Live Stock Branch offers assistance as set forth in the inclosed policies.

The first of the policies referred to is called the "Free-Freight Policy." It originally was issued September 21, 1917. Its purpose is stated to be "to prevent, as far as possible, the slaughter or exportation of useful heifers and young ewes offered for sale on the open market at central stock-yards." Under this policy, formulated by the Department of Agriculture in co-operation with the railroad companies of Canada, female breeding stock of the classes described may be shipped from central stock-yards to country points without the payment

of freight charges—the freight to be collected by the railroads from the government. Conditions under which this policy is applied are, in part, as follows:

(1) Shipments must comprise car lots of not less than twenty heifers or forty ewes; or mixed car lots of both heifers and ewes, two ewes being accepted as equivalent to one heifer. . . .

(2) Heifers included in such shipments should be under twenty-four months of age, and ewes should be three years or younger.

(3) Only farmers, or properly authorized purchasing agents for farmers, will be entitled to receive assistance under this policy. . . .

(4) Applicants will be required . . . to make a declaration to the effect that the stock is being taken back for breeding purposes, and not for feeding or speculative purposes.

(5) Certificates signed by the stock-yard representatives of the Branch will enable the shipper to bill out his car free of all freight charges. . . .

The "Car-Lot Policy" dates from May 1, 1918. By its provisions the Dominion Live Stock Branch agrees to pay "reasonable traveling expenses" of a farmer, or authorized agent of farmers, residing in Canada, who purchases, for other than speculative purposes, one or more carloads of female breeding stock, or of feeder and stocker cattle. A certificate is to be obtained from the government representative at the nearest stock-yards, where the applicant must make his purchase unless conditions warrant an exception being made. Expenses allowed cover railroad transportation from the home of the purchaser, and his hotel bill "for a reasonable time." In addition, if he so desires, he may have the benefit of the advice of the representative of the Live Stock Branch at the yards. The actual buying, however, must be done by himself or his agent.

Parties purchasing female breeding stock under the terms of the Car-Lot Policy, and who comply with the terms of the Free-Freight Policy, are entitled to the benefit of both policies on one shipment.

* * *

Paternalism in government may be a hindrance rather than a help to the sound economic development of a nation. Too much coddling may dull initiative. Insurance against risks and losses of all kinds may soften the fiber of the industrial fabric. Our formularies have taught us this. But the state that takes into its own hands the vigilant supervision of fundamental activities, exercising its prerogative to protect them against disaster in critical periods, while it may be assailed by political theorists with all manner of dogmatic ammunition, will at any rate not lay itself open to the charge of indifference that, once invited, both aims straighter and scores more effectively. Instances of governmental bottle-feeding like those cited above may evoke the scorn of class-room economists, but may also well tend to arouse the envy of many a practical farmer and stock-raiser of the United States whose call for a temporary lift has been as a voice in the wilderness.

EFFICIENCY OF LABOR

DURING THE WAR it was a common complaint among large employers that the output per labor unit was much below normal. Scarcity of man-power enabled labor to dictate both working hours and wages, and many inefficient individuals enjoyed the same pay as the efficient ones. This is being rapidly changed. There is now a surplus instead of a shortage of labor. Railroads are cutting down the number of their employees by letting go the less efficient; and they claim that the smaller number of efficient workers whom they have retained are doing as much work as formerly the larger force did. This is also true in industrial centers. When labor is plentiful, the desire to hold a job, or the fear of losing it, is a powerful incentive to good service. When labor is scarce, there are always a few employees anxious to do their level best, in order that they may advance to a better position, and there are others who are willing to perform a full day's work, because they feel that their employer is entitled to such return from them; but the majority, regrettably, prefer to do as little as possible, and for as high pay as can be extracted. We are entering upon an era when, if a man wants to live by his work, he must render a reasonable amount of efficient service. The drone and the inefficient will have a harder time selling their labor.

Our government and the different states should now commence some of the work which was deferred on account of the war. We must furnish all willing hands work, or support them in idleness. Unemployment has not yet reached a serious stage, but it is fast approaching it. Our country cannot prosper with a large percentage of our population having nothing to do.

EXTENSION OF TIME LIMIT FOR RETURN TRANSPORTATION

SHORTLY BEFORE the carriers were turned back to their owners, a lot of new rules and regulations governing the transportation of live stock were authorized. Among these was one providing a return limit for attendants accompanying live stock of not to exceed seventy-two hours after arrival at market, instead of the thirty or sixty days formerly allowed. When this new rule was established there was loud objection raised, because in many cases the return limit did not allow sufficient time for the sale of the stock, settlement, etc. Carriers realized that the time limit was too short, and promised to change it as soon as the roads were turned back. However, the matter has dragged along almost interminably. Within the past few months live-stock associations have vigorously insisted that something should be done, and at a meeting held in Chicago during November the carriers decided to extend the time limit in the territory west of the Missouri River to ten days instead of seventy-two hours.

The new regulation will be published soon; it will also provide that the time limit will not commence to run until the last car in the shipment has been marketed. Carriers have been inexcusably slow in making this very reasonable modification in their rules.

MEAT-PACKING LEGISLATION

WHEN CONGRESS ADJOURNED, early in June, meat-packing legislation was at the top of the calendar. In the Senate the Gronna bill was made unfinished business, to be taken up immediately upon reconvening; while in the House the Anderson bill was made the continuing order of business before the Committee on Agriculture until disposed of. The latter committee will not make up any appropriation bill at the next session, and its first work will be to consider and report out the Anderson bill. A determined effort will be made by the friends of this legislation in Congress to secure its passage at the short session. There will be much opposition. However, since the last session there has been an increasing demand for it. All the farm organizations favor it.

AT THE END OF THE YEAR

BY JAMES E. POOLE

THE RAMPANT OPTIMISM of a year ago in live-stock circles has been routed. At rare intervals market conditions have favored the producer; most of the time, however, the stock-yard atmosphere has been agitated by earnest, logical profanity. Most of the investment of a year ago was on an inflated basis, the money being lost in the initial stage of the transaction. Producers' profits—or losses, as the case may have been—depended largely on the element of luck, not only in reaching the market, but in getting the stuff over the scales. Judgment was worthless in many cases, as shippers, owing to transportation delay, were unable to select the time of marketing. Nevertheless considerable doubtful judgment was displayed by feeders, especially in loading up with fleshy cattle late in 1919, on the theory that deflation was improbable and that Europe would need any surplus of meats produced in North America. Winter-feeding was based on the expectancy of dollar corn, which never materialized; in fact, artificial conditions caused a steady advance in feed costs as the winter worked along. Still optimistic, the country resisted the inevitable deflation by nursing the market, holding back heavy cattle until April and May, when the load was jettisoned, precipitating chaos. Losses of \$75 to \$125 per head on fat bullocks ensued. Had discretion been observed in the beginning, at least some of this could have been avoided.

A Period of Violent Fluctuations

Trade reviews, especially when involving such a mess as that of 1920, are unpalatable and rarely perused; consequently nothing of that nature will be attempted. It has been a year of wide spreads and violent fluctuations. As the year progressed, tribulation for the producer multiplied. A top-heavy hide market went down with a crash, demand for wool practically disappeared, and most varieties of by-products were a drug on the market. Meat was required to carry the burden; profiteering by distributors aroused resentment among consumers, curtailing meat-eating; and not only did the expected European demand fail, but, in the case of lamb and mutton, the United States

market was literally deluged with frozen antipodal product. Depreciation in values of hides, wool, pelts, and by-products represented \$2.50 to \$4 per cwt. in hoof values; carrying charges advanced to exorbitant levels; and, as packers were under the necessity of accumulating hides, wool, and by-product, they were forced to compete in a stringent money market for more than \$100,000,000 to enable them to carry the load.

After the debacle of April and May the market stiffened, but it was a false sign of improvement. The western movement started late, but found an invalid market at the outset, later encountering chaos and demoralization, prices declining to pre-war levels. Late in the year liquidation from every section of the country aggravated the situation, unprecedented gluts developing at every market on the map. The credit system collapsed, so far as live stock was concerned; cattle and sheep being jettisoned regardless of what they realized.

Top Quotations on Cattle Deceptive

The following table indicates top prices for cattle at Chicago by months for the current and previous years; but this season tops are deceptive, as spreads were wide and the bulk sold at the low end of the range. An exception to this was during April and May, when the market was glutted with good cattle. From August to November tops were radically out of line with the basis on which the bulk of cattle changed hands; at one stage in November a few specialties selling above \$17, while \$8 to \$12.50 took the bulk. For comparison purposes the table, however, is interesting:

TOP PRICES OF CATTLE AT CHICAGO

Month	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914
January.....	\$19.25	\$20.00	\$14.30	\$11.95	\$ 9.85	\$ 9.70	\$ 9.50
February.....	16.90	20.10	14.50	12.25	9.75	9.50	9.75
March.....	16.00	20.40	14.75	12.95	10.05	9.15	9.75
April.....	16.00	20.35	17.60	13.50	10.00	8.90	9.55
May.....	14.40	19.75	17.75	13.70	11.05	9.65	9.60
June.....	17.25	16.40	18.00	13.90	11.50	9.95	9.45
July.....	17.25	18.40	18.75	14.15	11.30	10.40	10.00
August.....	17.75	19.50	18.90	16.50	11.50	10.50	10.90
September.....	18.35	18.00	19.60	17.90	11.50	10.50	11.05
October.....	18.50	19.50	19.70	17.50	11.65	10.60	11.00
November.....	18.10	20.25	19.75	17.25	12.50	10.55	11.00
December.....	.....	21.50	20.50	16.25	12.60	11.60	11.40

Lack of Export Demand Crippling Hog Market

Restriction of export demand for all kinds of product worked to the disadvantage of the hog market. The usual June break was recorded, followed by a September high spot. Midsummer found packers' cellars literally gorged with product, especially lard; but during October and November the accumulation was reduced, an enormous quantity of lard and meats going across the Atlantic, much of it to Germany and the Scandinavian countries. Subsequent to the September high spot a violent crash occurred, carrying top hogs from \$18.25 to \$10 per cwt. at Chicago by the latter part of November.

The course of the market during the year, as indicated by tops, follows:

TOP PRICES OF HOGS AT CHICAGO

Month	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914
January.....	\$16.00	\$18.00	\$16.90	\$12.00	\$ 8.10	\$ 7.40	\$ 8.60
February.....	15.65	18.15	17.70	13.55	8.90	7.25	8.90
March.....	16.35	19.95	18.15	15.55	10.10	7.05	9.00
April.....	16.75	21.15	18.10	16.50	10.35	7.90	8.95
May.....	15.65	21.55	18.30	16.65	10.15	7.95	8.67½
June.....	16.75	21.60	17.35	16.17½	10.25	7.95	8.52½
July.....	16.65	23.60	19.40	16.30	11.55	8.12½	9.30
August.....	16.40	23.50	20.30	20.00	11.60	8.05	10.20
September.....	18.25	21.00	20.95	19.70	10.55	8.50	9.75
October.....	16.25	17.20	19.95	19.65	10.35	8.95	9.05
November.....	14.50	15.50	18.60	18.10	10.80	7.75	8.25
December.....	.....	14.60	18.00	17.75	11.60	7.10	7.75

Meat Imports Factor in Mutton Demoralization

A short western lamb crop was nullified by free liquidation of flocks east of the Missouri River and enormous imports of New Zealand and South American frozen meat. Had a normal range-lamb crop been raised, selling conditions would have been

even worse. Corn Belt feeders supported the midsummer market, but in November this support collapsed, feeders taking alarm over the continuous slump in fat stock. Colorado feeders had a profitable season, and until June the market was on a fairly healthy basis; but, between western liquidation, collapse of the wool market, and foreign meats, demoralization marked the latter half of the year. Matured muttons went to the pre-war basis. Comparative prices by months, as indicated by tops at Chicago, on sheep and lambs follow:

TOP PRICES OF SHEEP AT CHICAGO

Month	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914
January.....	\$15.50	\$12.00	\$13.70	\$11.75	\$ 8.50	\$ 6.85	\$ 6.30
February.....	15.50	13.75	14.00	12.50	9.75	7.75	6.50
March.....	16.50	17.15	17.00	13.00	9.35	8.15	7.00
April.....	17.15	17.25	17.00	13.50	9.40	8.75	7.20
May.....	15.00	16.50	17.50	16.00	10.00	8.50	6.50
June.....	10.50	11.75	15.25	13.50	9.00	7.00	6.50
July.....	10.00	11.50	14.75	11.50	8.50	7.00	6.10
August.....	10.00	11.50	14.75	12.50	8.40	6.90	6.10
September.....	8.25	10.50	13.00	12.75	8.75	6.75	6.25
October.....	8.60	10.75	12.25	13.00	8.65	7.00	6.25
November.....	9.00	10.75	11.50	13.00	9.00	6.75	6.65
December.....	.....	12.00	11.50	13.50	10.25	7.00	6.85

TOP PRICES OF LAMBS AT CHICAGO

Month	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914
January.....	\$21.65	\$17.50	\$18.00	\$14.45	\$11.15	\$ 9.00	\$ 8.40
February.....	21.65	19.00	17.85	15.00	11.50	9.65	8.10
March.....	20.75	21.00	19.50	15.70	11.90	10.10	8.50
April.....	21.75	20.50	22.10	17.40	12.00	11.15	8.60
May.....	21.25	20.50	21.25	20.60	12.90	11.85	9.50
June.....	17.00	17.50	18.50	18.50	12.25	10.85	9.60
July.....	16.75	18.25	19.25	16.50	11.10	10.00	9.35
August.....	15.15	18.25	18.75	17.75	11.50	9.55	9.00
September.....	14.40	16.25	19.00	18.60	11.40	9.25	9.00
October.....	13.50	16.00	16.85	18.60	11.25	9.25	8.20
November.....	13.85	15.10	16.85	18.00	12.45	9.40	9.50
December.....	.....	18.50	16.25	17.50	13.60	9.90	9.25

NOVEMBER CROP REPORT

THE FINAL SUMMARY by the Bureau of Crop Estimates of the aggregate yields of the principal crops of the United States in 1920 was given as below on November 1, compared with the final figures for 1919 (in bushels):

	1920	1919
Wheat	750,648,000	940,987,000
Corn	3,199,126,000	2,917,450,000
Oats	1,444,411,000	1,248,310,000
Rye	77,893,000	88,478,000
Barley	191,386,000	165,719,000

As previously pointed out, the corn crop is the largest on record. It exceeds by 75,000,000 bushels that of any previous year. Only twice before has corn yielded more than 3,000,000,000 bushels—in 1912 and 1917.

Stocks of old corn on farms November 1 were reported at 142,211,000 bushels, as against 69,835,000 bushels last year.

FARM BUREAU FEDERATION IN CONVENTION

WHAT IS SAID to have been one of the biggest gatherings of agricultural leaders ever assembled met at Indianapolis on December 6-8 to attend the first annual convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation. The dominant feature of the program was the formulation of a national agricultural policy. A large number of prominent speakers—authorities on the different phases of the subject—addressed the meeting. Delegates from nearly forty states were present.

"I have received more real benefit from THE PRODUCER than from all the rest of the papers I take. I think everyone interested in live stock should read it."—ROY R. MOORE, Emmett, Idaho.

THE STOCKMEN'S EXCHANGE

THE PRODUCER invites the stockmen of the country to take advantage of its columns to present their views on problems of the day as they affect their industry. It solicits correspondence on topics of common concern, such as stock, crop, and weather conditions, doings of state and local organizations, records of transactions of more than individual interest. Make it your medium of exchange for live-stock information between the different sections of the stock-raising region. Address all communications to *THE PRODUCER*, 515 Cooper Building, Denver, Colorado.

COMMERCIALIZING THE GRAZING FEE

BIG PINEY, WYO., November 30, 1920.

TO THE PRODUCER:

There are considerations which make the fixing of forest fees by comparing forest grazing lands with private lands held under lease almost impossible. Were it practicable to give a percentage of disadvantage to each contributing element in the difference between the two styles of lease, some idea might be reached as to their relative values; but men will differ widely as to these values, and nothing definite would come of it.

It will all result finally in an increase of the grazing fee; and, since the rancher has built up a property in which he has all his wealth invested, and cannot dispose of it to anyone else, he will have to pay the price, or see the range taken over by nomadic herdsmen who devastate the country and leave when the feed is gone. The man who has built up the country in the neighborhood of the forest, and made it a fit habitation for white men, will have to bow to the mandate of a departmental ukase, or move.

I will cite a few considerations which make a great difference between the two proprietorships—private and governmental. In the first place, it is notorious that Uncle Sam is a hard landlord. Go into the oil fields, and you will find that the operators will pay three or four times as much for a lease on private lands as on public. The same will be found true in the coal regions, where private lands are developed while public lands lie idle, although the rate of royalty may be more than twice as high on the former holdings. The development of public mineral lands is almost at a standstill. This is due to the fact that no one will lease from Uncle Sam, if privately owned lands are obtainable. Why? Because, in all controversies between the lessor and lessee of private lands, each party has an equal show in the courts; the terms of the contract are mutually agreed upon, and are more flexible; there is a give-and-take spirit. With your Uncle Sam, on the other hand, it is all take and no give; and who ever heard of him losing in his own courts? The lessee usually helps to hire a better lawyer for his opponent than he can employ for himself. Uncle Sam cannot be bound by an agreement. The lessee thinks he has a perfect understanding of the terms, and invests his capital, when suddenly he finds that his landlord has changed his mind; and it matters not what loss may follow, the terms of the contract are altered by the "high contracting party."

This leads us to consider the uncertainty of tenure. There are so many ways in which a lease of forest lands may be forfeited that no user ever feels safe or certain of his business. The land may be made a game preserve, a national park, or a power site; it may be thrown out of the forest, withdrawn for experimental purposes, or subjected to any of the numerous other changes which can be conjured up by a restless supervisor. In fact, the reserves are in a state of constant mutation. Not only that, but regulations limiting the rights of the user are being constantly promulgated or repealed, and the poor fellow never knows what new thing is going to be sprung on him next. He makes no improvements or provision for the future, but takes from the land day by day, not knowing what tomorrow may bring.

The next great determining factor is that forest grazing lands must be held in common. In the case of a private lease the holder may fence his leasehold and prevent his stock from straying, raise the class of stock which suits him best, fix his own breeding seasons, take the animals off when he wishes to market them, and cut down his herd or build it up—all according to his own idea of running the business. He may seed the land, or develop water, with some assurance that he will reap the benefit. He knows how many head of stock he can run each year, and what he must pay, and can make arrangements with his banker to handle his business.

I do not believe that such a comparison affords an equitable means of fixing grazing fees on the forest reserve; but, since such a method has been determined upon, and since the decision is as unalterable as the laws of the Medes and Persians, I would suggest that a committee of users be appointed by the American National Live Stock Association, to meet with a committee from the Forest Service; the two jointly to weigh the contributing elements and fix upon a fair ratio of fees. This may seem rather academic, but no better way occurs to me at this time.

P. W. JENKINS.

BASIC INDUSTRIES OF WEST MUST BE SAFEGUARDED

ORCHARD, COLO., November 29, 1920.

TO THE PRODUCER:

Let me call your attention to the financial page of the *Rocky Mountain News* of November 28, 1920. You will notice there a statement of the condition of the twelve federal reserve banks. This shows a paid-up capital of \$99,020,000 and a surplus of \$164,745,000. No one will deny that this is a profitable business for the member banks! In the same issue appears a dispatch from New York announcing that Allan Ryan, a son of Thomas A. Ryan, is at present under a financial cloud, as a result of having borrowed some \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000, giving as security stocks of motor and candy companies and other non-essential institutions. The banks that advanced this money now find that, on account of the shrinkage in the value of the

securities, they are obliged to stop Mr. Ryan's operations until matters can be adjusted.

I also wish to call your attention to a recent newspaper report to the effect that the big financial institutions of New York are contemplating lending assistance to the sugar-growers of Cuba to the amount of some \$100,000,000. As we all know, the attitude of the federal reserve banks toward the essential, producing industries of the West—the farming industry, the sheep industry, and the cattle industry—has been one of lagging interest and disinclination to extend the necessary support. But apparently there is no objection to financing a foreign industry; nor, evidently, has there been any objection to providing funds for the speculations of such undesirable members of society as young Mr. Ryan.

The time for the inauguration of the new administration is approaching. What men have we in the West—unprejudiced, with no axes to grind—who can take up the western fight in Washington? We must start right. We must be represented properly in the cabinet—not by mediocre men, but by men with ability and integrity; high-minded men, who can be depended upon to accomplish something for our basic industries. No talk will avail—no aimless and futile endeavor; only self-sacrifice and honest effort will achieve results. Have we the men to take the lead for us?

C. B. RHODES.

CATTLE PRICES AND BEEF COSTS

KANSAS CITY, MO., November 8, 1920.

TO THE PRODUCER:

Last week, on the Kansas City market, I sold a bunch of calves, averaging 214 pounds, for 11 cents a pound. I also sold some cows, averaging 955 pounds, which brought 7 cents a pound. The packers who bought these cattle well knew that they could not be produced for the price paid for them.

I would not complain of the price of cattle if the consumer could purchase his meat at the same proportionate valuation at which the packer secures it. My chief complaint has reference to the amount I must pay for butchered meat, after I have sold this same meat on the hoof at the packers' bid. The consumer should be able to buy his meat at one-third less than the present retail price.

At the hotels here in Kansas City \$1.50 is charged for a pound of beef. At this rate cows should sell on the market for double what they are now selling for. At hotels 30 cents buys 5 cents' worth of crackers. At this rate the farmer should be getting \$5 a bushel for his wheat.

The excuse for the high retail prices is that the sale price cannot be reduced on account of the increased cost of doing business. Expenses have gone up, freight rates have been advanced, commission charges have risen. Cattle alone are selling for less than before.

It is reported that the packers are interested in banks from coast to coast. Armour owns the largest elevator in Kansas. The packers are quoted as saying that whenever a cowman is forced out of business there is another fellow waiting to take his place. I contend that the same rule applies to packers, and I should be glad to give \$10,000 if it were possible to prohibit them from doing business in this state.

W. E. HALSELL.

FAVORS CO-OPERATIVE COMMISSION HOUSES

ELLENBURG, WASH., November 8, 1920.

TO THE PRODUCER:

In my opinion, the action of the commission men, on August 2, in raising their fee for selling a carload of sheep to \$24 was utterly unjustifiable, in view of the fact that shippers were losing money on every animal sent to market. Under such cir-

cumstances, can we sheepmen be blamed for feeling that we are being robbed, and that the only way for us to get a square deal is through the establishment of our own commission firms at the principal markets?

Let a committee representing the different live-stock associations meet with representatives of the live-stock exchanges and commission men, and make them a proposition that they henceforth conduct their business on a \$10-per-car basis. If they refuse to accept this, then let all of us unite for protection of our mutual interests, and start our own commission houses.

K. O. KOHLER.

A PESSIMISTIC NOTE FROM SOUTHERN ARIZONA

DOUGLAS, ARIZ., November 5, 1920.

TO THE PRODUCER:

Taking it by and large, the year has been an unfavorable one for cattlemen in this section. To begin with, great numbers of steers failed to move last spring. Many buyers who had put up forfeits chose to lose these, rather than ship at prevailing prices. Then we had a very dry summer and fall. Everything that would do for beef was disposed of. Hoping to save their cows, many stockmen marketed their calves for veal. Lots of animals were sent to Texas pastures.

We have grass in spots, but the spots are small and far between. One thing that has helped us was the unusually fine spring, causing the stock to come through the summer in good condition.

F. P. MOORE.

AN OPTIMISTIC VIEW FROM THE SAME SECTION

TUCSON, ARIZ., November 8, 1920.

TO THE PRODUCER:

Cattle throughout southern Arizona are in good condition. The calf crop has been a large one. While there are a few pessimists among us who predict that yearlings will revert to a \$25 basis, and that the cow business is doomed to go to the bow-wows, bankers as well as the more conservative cowmen look for things to take a favorable turn in the spring, with good demand and fair prices. To me the prospect seems promising for several years to come.

In my opinion, the money market is responsible for present cattle prices, which are on a lower level than those of any other commodity. As soon as the financial situation becomes normal, thin cattle will follow. Were hides back where they ought to be, that alone would add a ten-dollar bill to the price of each animal sold.

W. M. MARTENY.

CORPORATION FOR FURTHERING FOREIGN TRADE

PURSUANT TO A RESOLUTION adopted at the annual convention of the American Bankers' Association in October, a group of representative bankers and business men have been invited to meet at Chicago on December 10 and 11, for the purpose of taking action on a proposed plan for the formation of "a nation-wide foreign-trade financing corporation by means of which bankers, in co-operation with exporters, manufacturers, and producers, can effectively further the national welfare by maintaining and effectively developing America's foreign trade." The corporation, according to the plan outlined, is to have an authorized capital of \$100,000,000.

A strong sentiment is being aroused throughout the country in favor of the revival of the War Finance Corporation. The stimulation of our export trade through this agency, it is held, would prove the most important practical step that could be taken toward relieving the present depressed state of business.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

GOVERNMENT OPPOSES PACKERS' DIVESTMENT PLANS

A WASHINGTON DISPATCH, dated November 30, states that on that day the government filed with the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia a petition for the appointment of a trustee to take possession of, and sell after due notice to defendants, the stock-yard properties of the five big packers. The petition, which declares that the packers had failed to present a suitable plan to the court, although nine months had elapsed since their agreement to submit such a plan, is returnable on December 14.

If the court grants the petition of the Department of Justice, this will dispose of the revised plan submitted by Armour and Swift, to which reference was made in our November issue. What bearing it will have on the separate project filed by Morris & Co., and said to be concurred in by the Cudahy interests, is not so clear. Under this plan Morris & Co. were immediately to surrender to the court their holdings, and to resign all positions, in stock-yard and terminal companies. Live-stock producers were to be given the first opportunity to acquire these holdings; but, as it was realized that the financial situation precludes such transfer at the present time, it was suggested that new certificates be issued in the name of some trust company, which was to hold and vote the stock until it could be sold to people outside of the packing industry. Next to live-stock men, the stock would be offered to people living in the vicinity of the various plants, then to the common carriers, and lastly to the general public. Whatever was not disposed of within a specified time would be sold by the court at public auction. Presumably the government's protest is designed to reject such features in this plan as fail to conform to its own program, details of which must be awaited pending the court's decision.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

NOVEMBER 3-15 the General Assembly of the International Institute of Agriculture met in biennial session at Rome, where its headquarters are located. The representatives from the United States were: Thomas F. Hunt, dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of California (permanent delegate); Leon M. Estabrook, statistician and chief of the Bureau of Crop Estimates; and Harvey J. Sconce, former president of the Illinois Agricultural Association and prominent in organizing the American Farm Bureau Federation. Because of the failure of Congress to provide funds, it was necessary to appoint men who would be in Europe at the time on other business, or who were willing to pay their own expenses. Mr. Estabrook, who is thoroughly familiar with the crop and live-stock statistical service of the United States, has been sent to western Europe by the Department of Agriculture to collect information on the present and prospective supply, marketing, and distribution of agricultural products.

The International Institute of Agriculture was organized in 1905, through the assistance of King Victor Emmanuel of Italy, at the instance of the late David Lubin, of California, who had first tried to interest several other countries in the project. Mr. Lubin conceived the idea of an international clearing-house for crop and live-stock statistics, and other economic data, which would make available systematically, on the same dates for the entire world, information regarding the production, consumption, marketing, and distribution of agricultural commodities. He was the permanent delegate of the United States to the institute from the time of its organization until his death in 1919.

The institute is maintained by contributions from fifty-five adherent countries, in proportion to the part taken by each in its activities. The United States contributes annually \$16,000 for its support. The General Assembly meets biennially to review its work and outline plans for the succeeding two years. The last meeting was held in May, 1913, when the war intervened.

WORLD'S LIVE-STOCK SUPPLIES

ON THE BASIS of the latest data procurable, the Bureau of Crop Estimates computes the present supplies of live stock in twelve European countries (Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Rumania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom) and twelve leading non-European countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, British South Africa, Canada, Formosa, India, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, the United States, and Uruguay) to be about as follows, compared with pre-war numbers:

	After War	Before War	Increase (+) or Decrease (-)
Cattle—			
12 European.....	63,000,000	72,000,000	- 9,000,000
12 non-European.....	311,000,000	271,000,000	+40,000,000
Totals.....	374,000,000	343,000,000	+31,000,000
Sheep—			
12 European.....	78,000,000	87,000,000	- 9,000,000
12 non-European.....	318,000,000	345,000,000	-27,000,000
Totals.....	396,000,000	432,000,000	-36,000,000
Swine—			
12 European.....	29,000,000	49,000,000	-20,000,000
12 non-European.....	102,000,000	89,000,000	+13,000,000
Totals.....	131,000,000	138,000,000	- 7,000,000

All countries for which official reports are given out had, according to the same source, before the war approximately 491,000,000 cattle, 605,000,000 sheep, and 183,000,000 swine. So far as figures are available (and in many cases these are very incomplete and unreliable), cattle since then show an increase of 23,000,000, sheep show a decrease of 23,000,000, and swine a decrease of 4,000,000.

(Compare with these figures the table printed on page 27 of the June PRODUCER.)

GAINS FROM TICK ERADICATION IN SOUTH

TO ASCERTAIN what stock-raisers in the South think of the tick-eradication campaign conducted by the Bureau of Animal Industry, questionnaires were recently sent out to a large number of cattlemen in that part of the country. From the more than one thousand answers received, the bureau has made the following tabulation of estimated increases in value per head of cattle as a result of this work:

California	\$15.00
Texas	13.79
Virginia	13.28
Tennessee	10.94
South Carolina	9.25
Mississippi	9.00
Arkansas	8.31
North Carolina	8.30
Oklahoma	8.20
Georgia	8.00
Alabama	7.70
Average	\$ 9.76

Previous to the inauguration of this work the average loss from ticks was calculated to represent 11 per cent of all the cattle in the South.

The release of 32,171 square miles of quarantined area in the cattle-tick infested states of the South is made in a revised quarantine order which became effective December 1, 1920. Failure of county officials to co-operate with the Department of Agriculture in eradicating the tick in their areas caused the re-quarantining of 7,917 square miles. Under the revised quarantine there will be approximately 218,000 square miles held to be infested.

NEW CHIEF ENGINEER FOR THE FOREST SERVICE

ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE of the appointment of T. W. Norcross as chief engineer of the Forest Service, to succeed O. C. Merrill, who recently resigned to become executive secretary of the Federal Power Commission. Mr. Norcross has had wide experience in hydraulic and general construction work. In 1910 he became connected with the Forest Service as district engineer of the Rocky Mountain and Southwestern Districts, with headquarters at Denver. Here he had charge of the water-power and irrigation studies carried on in these two districts. In 1913 he was transferred to the Washington office as assistant chief engineer. Since 1916 he has been devoting most of his attention to the supervision of road construction on the national forests.

WAR TAX ON FEEDING CHARGES

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT has ruled that all extra charges made by the carriers for incidental service, facilities, feed, etc., in connection with the transportation of live stock, are subject to the war tax. However, if the shipper purchases feed from a dealer at feeding stations, and pays for it himself, no tax is imposed.

CROP AND MARKET BUREAUS TO MERGE

CONSOLIDATION of the Bureau of Crop Estimates and the Bureau of Markets is to be effected as soon as practicable, says a Washington dispatch. The work of the two bureaus has been largely along the same lines, and considerable duplication has resulted as a consequence.

There are two distinct opinions of profiteers. One is held by the profiteers themselves and the other is held by everybody else.—*New York Evening Mail.*

LIVE-STOCK CLASSIFICATION

WITH THE OBJECT of describing in detail the system of classification used in its live-stock market-reporting service, the Bureau of Markets has in preparation a series of bulletins, which it is hoped to complete at an early date, in response to an urgent demand from producers and their organizations. The bulletins will be three in number—one each for cattle, hogs, and sheep—and will be illustrated with photographs of typical specimens of each grade.

The tentative classification developed by the bureau, and used in the monthly market reports published in THE PRODUCER, embraces the following main divisions:

CATTLE AND CALVES

A. Killing Grades.

- I. Beef Steers: (1) Heavy Weight (1,300 pounds up); (2) Medium Weight (1,100-1,300 pounds); (3) Light Weight (1,100 pounds down).
- II. Butcher Cattle: (1) Heifers; (2) Cows; (3) Bulls and Stags—(a) Beef, (b) Bologna.
- III. Cutters and Canners: (1) Cutters—Steers, Cows and Heifers; (2) Canners—Steers, Cows, Bulls, Calves.
- IV. Veal Calves: (1) Light Weight (90-120 pounds); (2) Handy Weight (120-180 pounds); (3) Medium Weight (180-250 pounds); (4) Heavy Weight (250 pounds up).

B. Stockers and Feeders.

- I. Feeder Cattle: (1) Heavy-Weight Feeder Steers (1,000 pounds up); (2) Light- and Medium-Weight Feeder Steers (750-1,000 pounds); (3) Feeder Cows; (4) Feeder Bulls.
- II. Stock Cattle: (1) Stock Steers; (2) Stock Cows; (3) Stock Heifers; (4) Stock Bulls; (5) Stock Calves.
- III. Milkers.
- IV. Springers.

SWINE

A. Killing Grades.

- I. Butcher, Bacon, and Shipper Hogs: (1) Heavy Weight (250 pounds up); (2) Medium Weight (200-250 pounds); (3) Light Weight (150-200 pounds); (4) Light Light (130-150 pounds).
- II. Packing Sows: (1) Smooth (250 pounds up); (2) Rough (200 pounds up).
- III. Boars.
- IV. Stags.
- V. Pigs (130 pounds down).

B. Stock or Feeder Hogs.

- (1) Heavy Weight (100-130 pounds); (2) Light Weight (80-100 pounds).

SHEEP AND LAMBS

A. Killing Grades.

- I. Lambs*: (1) Handy Weight (84 pounds down); (2) Medium Weight (84-92 pounds); (3) Heavy Weight (93 pounds up); (4) Spring Lambs; (5) Cull Lambs.
- II. Yearling Wethers: (1) Handy Weight (90 pounds down); (2) Medium Weight (90-100 pounds); (3) Heavy Weight (100 pounds up); (4) Cull Yearlings.
- III. Wethers.
- IV. Ewes.
- V. Rams.

B. Feeder Sheep and Lambs.

- (1) Feeder Lambs; (2) Feeder Yearlings; (3) Feeder Wethers; (4) Feeder Ewes.

C. Breeding Ewes.

- (1) Yearlings; (2) Twos and over.

GOATS

A. Killing Grades.

- B. Brushers.
- C. Kids.

Under each class, relative quality is indicated by the terms: Prime (for Stockers and Feeders: Selected), Choice, Good, Medium, Common.

*On and after June 15 all offerings born in the spring of the previous year will be classified as Yearlings, and those of the current year as Lambs.

The noise you hear these days is not the consumer shaking down the coal in the furnace; it is the noise of the coal dealer shaking down the consumer.—*Kansas City Star.*

THE MARKETS

LIVE-STOCK MARKET AT BEGINNING OF DECEMBER

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., December 1, 1920.

LIVE-STOCK MARKETS are spectacular, if not stable. November was a riot; December portends much the same variety of trading opportunities for the buyer. Liquidation is apparently irresistible. East, west, north, and south cattle-gathering is a popular outdoor sport, under stress of necessity. The Northwest is striving to replenish its coffers while the weather permits putting cattle on the rails; in the Corn Belt cattle sold are considered well disposed of regardless of price; and in the South depreciation in cotton has furnished incentive to run a fine-toothed comb through the brush for something wearing a hide. The stock-yard has afforded a short-cut to the cash-pile, and, while results in a majority of instances have fallen far short of production cost, that alternative has been gladly accepted. It is a market boast that cattle, hogs, and sheep may always be sold at a price. Sometimes this assertion is far-fetched, as was the case recently when a week or more was needed to get stuff over the scales; but the term "satisfied shipper" is obsolete with the market press.

Cattle Market a Seesaw of Bulges and Breaks

Anything like a detailed recapitulation of November cattle-trade demoralization will not be attempted here. How acute congestion became at Chicago, Kansas City, and Omaha during the third week of the month, when Kansas City reported an accumulation of 50,000 head at one time and the shelves at Chicago groaned in the same fashion, has been exploited heretofore. It is true that this enormous supply was finally absorbed, but at a bargain sale in which many shippers were not more than passively interested, as depreciation had reached a stage where liens swallowed up the entire proceeds. What the producer complained about, and logically, was alternate bulges and breaks of \$1 per cwt. or more within a few hours. At this juncture trading frequently degenerated into burlesque; cattle from the same feed-lot, identical in weight, quality, and condition, selling \$1 per cwt. or more apart on the same session, reviving reminiscence of the foot-and-mouth-disease period, when within the quarantine area at Chicago—better known as Tilden Park—prices were \$1 to \$1.50 per cwt. lower than in the clean division, where outside competition was available.

Feeders Practically Out of the Trade

Killers took this mass of cattle; protesting meanwhile against the infliction. During the third week of November, when the trade had been congratulating itself that the season of gluts was over, 40,000 westerns and Canadians were dumped into the hopper at Chicago, and both Kansas City and Omaha staggered under their bovine loads. Last season, with a broad feeder outlet, as the Corn Belt was in funds and spending money at the stock-yards for thin cattle after the same manner that drunken sailors on shore leave throw their earnings to the birds, the westerner assumed that he was being robbed; this season he has been up against the real thing, as at this critical moment, with every stock-yard in the country glutted with thin cattle, Corn Belt feeders were, for financial reasons, all but out of the trade, throwing a burden on the killer, who was under the necessity of effecting a tardy clearance, which was

not accomplished until the following week. During that week of November, according to that statistical genius, M. F. Horine, about \$14,000,000 (exact figures being obviously absurd) was paid for live stock on the Chicago market—the major portion for cattle; and at other markets the aggregate was enormous. Much of this represented liquidation of the most pronounced variety, as the wide range of prices demonstrated, since, during the meanest stage of the market, a few prime cattle sold at \$16.75; yet thousands were appraised at \$6 to \$8.50, and the great mass of steers, cows, and heifers went over the scales at \$5.50 to \$12.75. Under such conditions parading a few top sales is deceptive. There were a few \$18 cattle at Chicago during November, it is true, but \$15 took long-fed steers good enough for any trade, and the array of \$7 to \$9 grassers was imposing. In fact, at the bottom of the slump \$9 stopped the best western cattle, and shippers took them for Philadelphia, while New York took them by the trainload at \$8 to \$8.75, their destination indicating that they had pretension to beef quality, likewise condition.

Packers Not Responsible for Demoralization

To accuse packers of this demoralization would be absurd. A system having the sanction of long custom made the weekly \$2 to \$3 fluctuations possible; but, to handle this overdose, packers ran their plants to full capacity and dug up the cash to make daily settlements. Had their resources been less, or their credit impaired, even the tardy clearance would have been impossible. What the trade lacked at this critical moment was country competition. Last year the Corn Belt came into the market, infused with irrational optimism and ammunition with cheap money, competing with packers on near-beef, with disastrous results during the early part of 1920; this season neither country bankers nor commission houses were able to finance this trade, paralyzing a strong purchasing arm. Corn went rapidly from \$1.50 to 50 cents per bushel, but still the country remained aloof, stocker-dealers turning over their weekly accumulation to killers at heavy loss. Commission houses were constantly importuned for credit by feeders who would have promptly relieved the situation had a little financial lubricant been available. The slump carried many grades of cattle to pre-war levels. Relative trading conditions are indicated by the following epitome, showing the present basis and that on which the bulk of the business was done in 1914 and 1919:

	1914	1919	Now
Beef steers.....	\$7.75-\$9.35	\$13.55-\$16.45	\$7.75-\$14.25
Fat cows and heifers	5.25- 7.50	8.00- 12.50	4.50- 6.50
Canners and cutters	3.75- 4.50	5.50- 7.50	3.00- 4.25
Calves.....	8.00- 11.00	14.50- 20.00	7.00- 14.00
Bulls.....	5.50- 6.85	6.75- 11.60	4.00- 6.50

Cheaper Grades on the Bargain Counter

The wide spread in steers, as compared with 1919 and 1914, indicates the slump in cheaper grades, especially grass westerns. In the case of canning and cutting cows the fact that deflation has run its course is evident, recent prices having been due in a large measure to hide-trade demoralization. Bulls have been selling out of line with steers, due to western liquidation; and the cow market has been a continuous bargain sale, cost of this grade of beef on the hooks being absurdly low, compared with what the consumer is taxed. The November decline, compared with closing October prices, was as much as \$3 per cwt. in many places, even when cattle were salable—and many of them had a weary wait before their turn to get over the scales came around. Thousands of acres of good beef cows changed hands at a range of \$5 to \$6.50, canners and cutters at \$3 to \$4, bulls at \$4.50 to \$6, and calves at \$5 to \$10. Had even a suggestion

of this been made earlier in the season, it would have been greeted with ridicule.

Antics of Hog Market without Precedent

Swine trade has been even more fantastic in its gyrations than cattle. With infrequent reactions, deflation was almost continuous from the moment Louis F. Swift made prediction of that nature at the Union League Club conference in Chicago until early in December. At the crest of the September rise—which, in the light of recent events, was wholly unwarranted—\$18.25 was the top and \$17.16 average cost at Chicago. Before the end of November droves were put up at \$9.50, and the top was \$10. No such drastic shake-out has ever before been recorded, even during the 1907 panic. Three months back the trade cautiously ventured prediction that the common price of hogs would go to \$12, thereby arousing protest in producing circles. Then the bolder element intimated that a \$10 market was probable, eliciting more protest. But when this forecast had been made good and the common price was flirting with \$9 per cwt., the talent quit, apprehensive that the country would accuse it of being *particeps criminis*. During 1914 hogs averaged about \$18.30 per cwt.—as near as an average can be figured; in 1919, \$17.85 about represented the mean level of the market; and at the bottom of the November break \$9.50 to \$9.80 took the bulk—a mean level of about \$9.68. Eight-cent prophecy is now confidently made, the probability being that packers will put up droves at Chicago and Missouri River markets around that figure. With corn at 40 to 50 cents per bushel, the cost of putting on weight has been more than cut in two, and growers are not protesting as strenuously against depreciation in hogs as in cattle, regarding it as inevitable. Cattle have been sacrificed in a manner that would be inexplicable but for the financial situation, while the country has clung tenaciously to pigs, which have sold above a parity with matured hogs. The technical position of the market has been materially improved by reduction of provision stocks and enormous exports.

Sheep Sharing in General Depression

Sheep-growers have been going through much the same grilling as cattlemen. The November record is one of depreciation. Toward the end of the month it was a veritable price debacle, pre-war quotations being established, as thousands of fat ewes sold at \$4 to \$4.50 per cwt., and killers bought good lambs at \$10.50 to \$10.75, the \$11 quotation being eliminated at one stage. Depressive influences were continued liquidation of farm flocks and competition of frozen meat from the antipodes. The bulk of the lambs dropped to a \$10.25 to \$10.75 basis, compared with \$12.25 to \$19.60 in 1919, and \$7.40 to \$9 in 1914. Money stringency and free marketing of thin western stock finally took the bloom off the feeder market, Omaha and Kansas City being unable to digest the dose thrown at them, and the territory east of Chicago finally filling up.

At the inception of December there was nothing about any phase of the live-stock market warranting optimism, or higher-price forecasts, although it looked as though deflation had gone far enough. Always, however, the pendulum swings to an extreme in either direction, and, as the trend of all commodity values is still downward, the live-stock trade lacks stabilizing influences.

THE KANSAS CITY MARKET

BY SAMUEL SOSLAND

KANSAS CITY, MO., December 2, 1920.

STRAIN IN MONEY MARKETS is the dominating factor in the trade in cattle, hogs, sheep, horses, and mules on the Kansas City yards and throughout the Southwest. The strained credit situation proved disastrous to prices in November. As the position of banks improved little in general, the trade in

live stock is not yet stable at the extremely low levels now prevailing.

Cattle are \$1 to \$4 lower than a month ago, hogs \$3 down, lambs and sheep \$1.50 to \$3 off, and horses and mules \$25 to \$50 lower as compared with the opening of November.

Comparisons of receipts reported on the Kansas City yards are really hardly a barometer of the supply situation. Of greatest significance in the receipts is the fact that a new record for November—50,766 head—was reported in the arrivals of calves the past month; this total comparing with 41,449 a year ago, and the preceding November calf record of 41,856 head in 1918. For the year to date Kansas City has received 374,530 calves, and it is now a certainty that the market will establish a new high record in arrivals of this stock in 1920. The preceding record for a year was 383,142 calves in 1919. The enormous calf arrivals tell a story of forced liquidation on account of tightness of money. This factor checked buying by feeders and packers on the cattle yards; for the former were either without credit or lacking in confidence in many instances, while the latter reported demand for beef reduced by growing unemployment at industrial centers and a reversal from mad spending to economy among the public at large. The cattle receipts were 242,306 head, compared with 299,095 a year ago; but the movement would have been larger except for the appeals made twice during the month by commission dealers to shippers to halt consignments pending a clearing-up of the demoralized state of the trade. At one time in the middle of the month 65,000 cattle and calves had accumulated on the yards awaiting buyers. Hogs and sheep showed slight gains in receipts, while only 1,284 horses and mules arrived, compared with 11,656 a year ago.

Commission dealers are deprecating the tendency of some holders of cattle, not affected by tight money so far as calling of loans is concerned, in rushing their stock to markets. This is being felt on the Kansas City yards, and is contributing to the weakness in cattle in particular. Feed is too abundant and too cheap for such liquidation. The prediction is made that some of the panicky farmers unloading cattle needlessly will shortly be competing for stock to consume their piles of feed-stuffs. Bankers are making efforts to regulate marketing as carefully as possible to support prices. Liberal supplies are expected through December on the cattle yards, with short-feds increasing in numbers.

Thousands of dollars were lost by speculators in stockers and feeders during the month, as well as by producers. One speculative outfit on the yards went bankrupt. Some feeding cattle were sold on credit furnished by the rangemen who brought the stock to the yards. Other cattle were taken out through barter arrangements, continuing the property of the shippers, but going into the hands of farmers with feed, who agreed to give the owners a stipulated price after they are fattened, and take chances on getting something for the feed. Stocker- and feeder-cattle shipments were 104,000 head, or 35.4 per cent of the receipts of all cattle, compared with shipments of 124,000 head last year, or 33.2 per cent of the total receipts of cattle in that month. But the stockers and feeders moved slowly, and only today a load of plain 970-pound steers went out to a feeder at \$5.50—the lowest price in more than ten years. Feeding steers of the better grades are selling mainly at \$6.50 to \$8, and stock steers at \$5 to \$6.50 for those of good breeding. Stock cows are down to \$4 and \$5. Packers got 1,000-pound grass steers this week at \$6.10.

Formation of the Live Stock Finance Corporation at Chicago, together with the action of the bankers behind this body in raising a pool of \$22,000,000 in the East to lend on stock cattle at 10 per cent, is commended here, and it is expected that it will have a favorable psychological effect on markets. It is reported that some banks in the East which never pur-

chased cattle paper have joined this pool. The open market for cattle paper in the East is still unfavorable to active financing of live-stock operations.

Hogs and sheep here moved in sympathy with other markets. Stock hogs were affected by the break in fat offerings and by lack of confidence among feeders.

With the southern cotton states dejected over the continued weakness in cotton, practically no horses and mules moved. This explains the great shrinkage in receipts. Dealers at Kansas City and St. Louis are carrying more than 5,000 head of mules, for which there is practically no demand—an extraordinary situation. A revival in cotton is needed to restore demand for horses and mules.

Legislation at Washington is expected to wield at least a favorable sentimental influence over live-stock and other markets during December. As to the actual effect of various legislative proposals on prices, there is a division of opinion.

MARKET STABILIZATION NOT AN EASY TASK

LIVE-STOCK MARKET STABILIZERS launched their campaign at a banquet during the International Live Stock Exposition. Had the event been without precedent, it would have been more or less notable. As it is, previous efforts in the same sphere have been so abortive as to warrant skepticism concerning satisfactory results. The subject is emphatically "old stuff."

Plenty of material was furnished this conference by what has happened at the market recently. Take the last two weeks of November in cattle circles as an example. The third week trade was demoralized, even good bullocks being unsalable. Buyers asserted that they had more stale beef hanging in their coolers than could possibly be distributed this side of Christmas, and that they were merely taking cattle because they realized an obligation rested with them. Supply—which was burdensome, close to 112,000 reaching Chicago that week—made this plausible; but what happened the following week?

The crash in prices naturally curtailed loading in the country. The first three days of Thanksgiving week the supply of the previous week at ten primary points was reduced nearly 50 per cent. Scouting this, buyers were in the saddle bright and early Monday morning, bidding 50 cents per cwt. higher for steers which they could not be induced to look at the previous week. On Tuesday a scramble developed, as much as \$1 per cwt. being put on, and by Wednesday some cattle looked \$2 per cwt. higher than at the same session of the previous week.

Now what happened? It is nothing new. Commission men wired the country to get cattle on the rails. On Friday nearly 20,000 reached Chicago, and before the close of that session bids were as much as \$1.50 per cwt. lower than on Wednesday. By common consent it was agreed that the bulge early in the week was not warranted by demand, as it is highly probable that the bear raid of the previous week was inexcusable. This, however, has been the market program, year in and out, for decades past.

Not only are such wide, and apparently inexcusable, fluctuations forced on the producer week after week, but appraisals of cattle practically identical in weight, quality, and condition vary 50 cents to \$1 per cwt. in different divisions of the market at the same moment. The following is not a hypothetical, but an actual case: An Iowa man bought two loads of steers in Omaha at one price, and fed them the same way for the same time. They reached Chicago on the same day—one realizing \$11.50, the other \$13 per cwt. It must be admitted that the salesman caught a shipper on one load early and had to let the other go to a packer later, but the transaction tells an eloquent story of how discontent is generated among feeders.

If the stabilizers are sincere, they have a task as complex

as that confronting the League of Nations. Stabilization the market certainly needs. The condition of the patient is easily diagnosed; compounding a remedy is another proposition.

THE WOOL MARKET

THE WHEREABOUTS of the wool market is still unknown. Conferences held at Chicago and Salt Lake City recently have developed nothing but an emphatic demand for tariff relief. A proposition to relieve the pressure from the existing supply of low wools by providing credits for Germany and Austria is regarded as chimerical. Meanwhile foreign wool by the shipload is being dumped into the American market, to the indignation of domestic growers, who still have 60 per cent of the 1920 clip on their hands, with shearing time only a few weeks away. Quotations are impossible; when made, they are "merely nominal"—which means nothing.

The situation has been epitomized by J. D. Holliday, of the National Wool Warehouse, as follows:

A large proportion of the 1920 clip is still in growers' hands. As a result of the war, a world-wide surplus exists, variously estimated at 2,000,000,000 pounds. Under normal consumption conditions this would not be burdensome, but in the present emergency it has been effectively used to depress prices.

Accumulation of coarse wools is due to inability by France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Russia, and Austria—formerly the principal buyers of these grades—to finance purchasing, except in a limited way.

Australian and New Zealand clips, now coming off the sheep, will be added to the accumulation in foreign primary markets.

Owing to difference in exchange between England and this country, wool can be imported at 30 per cent less cost than if a normal condition existed. This means that wool can be bought at 30 cents in Australia which would cost 50 cents if exchange were normal.

The United States, being one of the few countries in a position to buy, will be made the dumping-ground for vast quantities of foreign wool, as well as tops, yarns, and cloth, unless some preventive action is taken by Congress.

European countries need raw materials to keep labor employed and to supply food and clothing for their people.

American mills, for one reason or another, do not seem disposed to show preference for our domestic wools, and, as the supply of carpet and low wools in this country is large—due in a considerable measure to government accumulation during the war—markets must be found elsewhere. If Congress would make it possible for this country to resume trading with the world on a large scale, and would support, by legislation, some financial arrangement to provide requisite credits, this accumulation would be gradually absorbed.

This puts the matter in a nutshell. Recently every condition has been adverse to the grower, not excepting the weather, which has depressed the clothing trade, thus retarding liquidation of stocks on retailers' shelves; and until that accumulation is out of the way manufacturing cannot be resumed on anything like a normal scale.

Boston has been hit hard by the slump and resultant market paralysis. As a matter of fact, the last thing Summer Street expected was what has happened since May, when the trade was apparently on a healthy basis. At present Boston is whistling for wind and "knocking" the retailer, whose efforts to get out whole have aroused popular resentment at the continuance of exorbitant prices. All the foreign news is unfavorable.

On much of the wool consigned to eastern markets early in the season values have dropped below the level of advances made. In some cases these advances were as high as 40 cents per pound during May. In June advances were 25 to 30 cents, and later 25 cents was advanced on practically all the good clips. And herein lies the danger. Recent sales of territory wool at Boston did not realize over 30 cents in the grease, and cost of handling is 6 to 7 cents per pound. Some wools have been dumped for what they would bring, the consignor getting practically nothing.

There is a popular demand for a tariff of 35 cents per pound, or sufficient to check the enormous influx of foreign wool. A tariff would undoubtedly create a better psychological condition, and the morale of the whole trade, from grower to manufacturer, is literally demoralized at present. Most of the mills are not running to exceed 50 per cent of their capacity; many have suspended awaiting revival of the goods market. Manufacturers are buying only when they need wool to fill actual orders, and Boston warehouses are full of desirable foreign wools that apparently get preference.

Such territory wools as have changed hands recently cost 80 to 85 cents per pound on a clean basis, and, as average to choice fine and fine-medium wools taken over by the government during the war were appraised at \$1.65 to \$1.70, clean basis, the trade is warranted in assuming that the bottom has been reached and that the market is approaching a working basis. The bad feature about recent sales, however, has been heavy withdrawals, indicating restricted outlet.

Producers face the certainty that the 1921 clip will be off the sheep's back before 50 per cent of that of 1920 has been absorbed. What the market will do meanwhile is anybody's guess.

HIDE MARKET SHOWING SYMPTOMS OF REVIVAL

A HIDE MARKET AT LAST! During the final two weeks of November some 500,000 hides changed hands at Chicago. Indications are that deflation has run its course. Heavy Texas steer hides sold at 16 cents, light Texas at 14 cents, extreme Texas at 13 cents, butt brands at 15 cents, Colorados at 14 cents, branded cows at 13 cents, and light native cows at 15 cents. The exact nature of these transactions has not been published, but Morris, who is not a tanner, has made heavy sales. Wilson is credited in hide circles with having made what amounts to a coup, by taking the market for hides every month while other packers accumulated.

The situation does not warrant optimism, however; nor does the immediate prospect. There is an enormous accumulation of hides all over the country, so that a movement from packers' cellars is deceptive. Even at 8 to 10 cents per pound, country hides have not been salable. Shoe trade is depressed, less than 40 per cent of the machinery of the country being in operation. Dealers are carrying several pairs of shoes to every

wearer in the country, and, as these stocks were acquired at war prices, they are maintaining cost to consumers at levels that arouse resentment and prompt economy. Tanners are doing little, as the stock of manufactured leather is still large.

At present packers are crediting hides put away in cellars at a 10-cent average; sheep pelts at 60 cents. Obviously they are taking no chances, as no hides have changed hands on a 10-cent basis, and sheep and lamb pelts are quoted at \$1.05 at Chicago and 90 cents at the Missouri River. Carrying charges are heavy, however, and packers have no assurance that their load will be lightened at an early date.

FEEDSTUFFS

P RICES OF COTTONSEED CAKE declined about \$11.50 a ton during November. Cake or meal of 43 per cent protein content is now being offered at Texas common points at \$27 per ton. This is the lowest price for more than four years. The price a year ago was \$73 per ton at Texas mills.

The hay market is lower, and demand is light. Compared with a year ago, hay is selling at terminal markets for from \$8 to \$10 per ton less.

There was a sharp slump in cash and future prices for all grains during November, and December opened with quotations close to the bottom of the decline.

STORAGE HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

B ELOW IS A SUMMARY of storage holdings of frozen and cured meats on November 1, 1920, compared with October 1, 1920, and November 1, 1919, as announced by the Bureau of Markets:

Commodity	Nov. 1, 1920 (Pounds)	Oct. 1, 1920 (Pounds)	Nov. 1, 1919 (Pounds)
Frozen beef.....	68,003,246	58,460,614	184,196,382
Cured beef.....	19,931,572	19,593,940	37,594,680
Lamb and mutton....	48,670,159	25,324,548	7,894,287
Frozen pork.....	66,609,234	87,592,345	47,271,467
Dry salt pork.....	154,414,986	233,388,714	281,929,913
Pickled pork.....	255,237,881	295,459,742	239,719,279
Lard.....	47,795,188	109,258,328	66,036,217
Miscellaneous.....	59,707,019	163,956,864	82,113,274

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W. F. SHEWEY, Sales Manager

REVIEW OF EASTERN MEAT-TRADE CONDITIONS

For Week Ending November 26, 1920

GENERAL MARKET CONDITIONS

The usual dullness of the fresh-meat trade during Thanksgiving week pervaded all markets, and the downward trend of prices of the previous two weeks was continued in a marked degree. Daily receipts were considerably in excess of the slow demand, which resulted in a liberal accumulation of practically all classes, particularly beef, veal, and pork.

BEEF

Under a very narrow demand, all grades of steer beef declined \$1 at Boston and New York, with conditions at Philadelphia unsettled and all sales forced. Further declines were partially checked by holding cars on track and moving some of the accumulation to the freezers. Cow beef held practically steady until Friday, when declines of \$1 were made on all grades at Philadelphia. The better grades of bulls were not offered. Light and uneven receipts of bolognas found a dull market, with the tendency downward; New York being the weakest point. Kosher-beef markets held steady on the better grades, with a slight downward tendency on common and medium.

VEAL

The fluctuation in prices of the previous week was followed during the present week by sharp and uneven declines at all markets. Boston closed \$3 to \$4 lower, New York \$4 to \$6 lower, and Philadelphia \$4 to \$5 lower, with all grades affected.

LAMBS

Conditions in the market, while slightly more stable than at other markets, were generally dull and tending lower. After sharp declines at Philadelphia, the range of prices on the several grades at all markets was practically uniform at the week's close.

MUTTON

Increased receipts of mutton and generally slow demand had a depressing effect on prices; Boston showing the greatest weakness, where declines ranging up to \$3 were registered during the week.

PORK

Reacting from the generally strong position of the previous two weeks, pork prices were on the toboggan and ranged from \$6 to \$10 lower, with conditions at the close demoralized. Philadelphia was the weak spot, with Boston second and New York third. While shoulder cuts were weak throughout the week, declines were not so sharp; skinned shoulders losing \$2 to \$4, picnics \$2 to \$5, and boneless butts \$3 to \$5.

MARKET CLOSING

Boston closed weak on all meats, at the lowest price levels of the week, with a liberal carry-over both in coolers and in cars on track. New York closed steady on beef and mutton at the week's decline, lambs firm, veal and pork unevenly lower; there is a liberal carry-over of beef, veal, and mutton, both in coolers and in cars on tracks. Philadelphia closed in a demoralized condition, with all sales forced and buyers hard to find; there is a liberal carry-over of all meats.

CLOSING WHOLESALE PRICES ON WESTERN DRESSED FRESH MEATS

For Week Ending November 26, 1920

[Bureau of Markets]

BOSTON

BEEF

STEERS:	
Good	\$18.00-21.00
Medium	16.00-17.00
Common	15.00-16.00

COWS:	
Good	14.00-14.50
Medium	13.00-13.50

LAMB AND MUTTON

LAMBS:	
Choice	\$25.00-26.00
Good	24.00-25.00
Medium	20.00-23.00

YEARLINGS:	
Good	18.00-20.00
Medium	17.00-18.00

MUTTON:	
Good	13.00-14.00
Medium	12.00-13.00
Common	9.00-11.00

NEW YORK

STEERS:	
Good	\$17.00-20.00
Medium	15.00-17.00
Common	13.00-14.00

COWS:	
Good	14.00-14.50
Medium	13.00-14.00
Common	12.00-13.00

BULLS:	
Common	10.50-11.00

LAMBS:	
Choice	\$25.00-26.00
Good	24.00-25.00
Medium	22.00-23.00
Common	16.00-20.00

MUTTON:	
Good	13.00-14.00
Medium	12.00-13.00
Common	8.00-10.00

LIVE-STOCK MARKET QUOTATIONS

November 29, 1920

HOGS

	CHICAGO	KANSAS CITY	OMAHA
Top	\$10.50	\$10.10	\$10.10
Bulk of Sales	9.90-10.20	9.60-9.95	9.50-10.00
Heavy Wt., Med. to Ch.	9.90-10.30	9.50-10.00	9.50-10.00
Medium Wt., Med. to Ch.	10.10-10.30	9.60-10.10	9.75-10.10
Light Wt., Com. to Ch.	9.90-10.30	9.10-9.95	9.50-10.10
Light Lits, Com. to Ch.	9.80-10.15	8.90-9.85	.....
Packing Sows, Smooth	9.50-9.85	9.00-9.40	9.35-9.50
Packing Sows, Rough	9.25-9.50	8.25-9.00	9.25-9.35
Pigs, Med. to Ch.	9.50-10.50	9.00-9.50	.....
Stocker Pigs, Com. to Ch. . . . .	.....	8.50-9.50	8.00-10.00

CATTLE

BEEF STEERS:			
Medium and Heavy Wt. (1,100 lbs. up)—			
Choice and Prime	\$15.00-17.50	\$13.25-14.75	\$13.50-15.00
Good	11.75-15.00	11.00-13.25	11.00-13.50
Medium	8.75-11.75	8.50-11.00	8.75-11.25
Common	7.50-8.75	7.50-8.50	7.25-8.75
Light Weight (1,100 lbs. down)—			
Choice and Prime	14.50-17.75	13.00-14.50	13.25-14.75
Good	11.25-14.50	10.00-13.00	10.25-13.25
Medium	8.25-11.25	7.50-10.00	7.50-10.25
Common	6.75-8.25	6.00-7.50	6.50-7.50
BUTCHER CATTLE:			
Heifers, Com. to Ch.	4.50-12.25	4.75-11.00	4.75-10.75
Cows, Com. to Ch.	4.50-10.25	4.50-8.25	4.50-9.00
Bulls, Bologna and Beef	4.50-9.25	3.75-7.00	4.00-8.25
CANNERS AND CUTTERS:			
Cows and Heifers	3.40-4.50	3.25-4.50	3.00-4.50
Canner Steers	3.75-5.50	4.00-5.25	3.25-5.25
VEAL CALVES:			
Lt. & Med. Wt., Med. to Ch.	12.00-13.00	9.50-13.50	10.25-13.00
Heavy Weight, Com. to Ch.	4.00-9.25	3.75-9.00	4.50-9.50
FEEDER STEERS:			
1,000 lbs. up, Com. to Ch.	7.50-10.25	7.00-10.00	7.25-10.10
750-1,000 lbs., Com. to Ch.	7.00-10.00	6.25-9.25	6.00-9.50
STOCKER STEERS:			
Common to Choice	4.00-8.75	3.75-7.85	4.00-8.00
STOCKER COWS AND HEIFERS:			
Common to Choice	4.00-6.50	3.75-6.25	3.75-6.25
WESTERN RANGE CATTLE:			
Beef Steers—			
Good and Choice	9.25-12.00	.....	8.75-11.25
Common and Medium	6.75-9.25	.....	6.00-8.75
Cows and Heifers—			
Common to Choice	4.75-9.50	.....	4.50-8.00

Buffalo Grass SHORTHORN HERD

RAISED OUT THIRTY-FIVE YEARS

Sired by the best Bulls I could buy and breed
Twenty-five Young Bulls that will sire
Market Toppers and Champions

SAMUEL BALL, Wray, Colorado

		SHEEP		
		CHICAGO	KANSAS CITY	OMAHA
LAMBS:				
84 lbs. down—				
Medium to Prime.....	\$10.50-12.00	\$9.25-11.25	\$9.50-10.85	
Culls and Common.....	8.00-10.00	6.00- 9.00	7.00- 9.25	
YEARLING WETHERS:				
Medium to Prime.....	8.00- 9.75	7.25- 8.75	7.00- 8.25	
WETHERS:				
Medium to Prime.....	5.75- 7.00	5.00- 6.75	5.25- 6.50	
EWES:				
Medium to Choice.....	4.00- 5.00	3.50- 4.75	4.00- 4.50	
Culls and Common.....	2.00- 3.50	2.00- 3.25	1.00- 3.75	
BREEDING EWES:				
Full Mouths to Yearlings..	4.50- 6.50	4.00- 6.25	4.00- 6.25	
FEEDING EWES:				
Medium to Good.....	3.00- 4.25	3.00- 3.75	2.00- 3.75	
FEEDING LAMBS:				
Medium to Choice.....	9.50-11.25	7.50- 8.75	8.00- 9.50	

LIVE STOCK AT STOCK-YARDS

APPENDED ARE TABLES showing receipts, shipments, and slaughter at sixty-eight markets for the month of October, 1920, compared with October, 1919, and for the ten months ending with October, 1920, compared with the corresponding period last year:

RECEIPTS

	October		Ten Months Ending October	
	1920	1919	1920	1919
Cattle.....	2,216,636	3,013,970	18,415,780	19,775,291
Hogs.....	2,834,164	3,160,792	34,476,261	36,155,460
Sheep.....	3,027,164	3,752,485	19,468,241	21,934,628

SHIPMENTS*

	October		Ten Months Ending October	
	1920	1919	1920	1919
Cattle.....	1,171,965	1,550,060	7,994,813	8,360,246
Hogs.....	1,067,622	1,115,405	12,328,733	11,396,208
Sheep.....	1,994,218	2,289,260	10,320,324	11,654,329

*Includes stockers and feeders.

STOCKERS AND FEEDERS

	October		Ten Months Ending October	
	1920	1919	1920	1919
Cattle.....	579,716	839,398	3,238,112	4,093,603
Hogs.....	60,462	111,156	637,078	741,694
Sheep.....	1,059,091	1,385,629	4,063,559	5,356,526

LOCAL SLAUGHTER

	October		Ten Months Ending October	
	1920	1919	1920	1919
Cattle.....	1,056,794	1,443,117	10,263,294	11,182,237
Hogs.....	1,771,294	2,060,759	22,087,963	24,701,558
Sheep.....	978,997	1,451,230	9,084,557	10,224,109

CO-OPERATIVE COMBINE TO HANDLE COUNTRY'S WHEAT CROP

PLANS ARE REPORTED to be under way for the control of our domestic and export business in wheat through a co-operative combine similar to the Citrus Fruit Growers' Association of California, in which the individual farmers or their various organizations are to be shareholders. The association expects to be ready in time to handle the 1921 crop. It is estimated by its proponents that the combine, which is fostered by the National Farm Bureau Federation, will control 51 per cent of the wheat in the first year.

TRADE REVIEW

INADEQUACY OF ATTEMPTS TO SUCCOR LIVE-STOCK INDUSTRY

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., December 1, 1920.

EVEN THE "WISE GUYS" of the live-stock trade have only a vague idea of its financial necessities at the moment and in the immediate future. Other than in a renewal sense, the credit recently existing has disappeared. Much ado has been made about the Chicago bank pool, formed by the Continental and Commercial, First Trust and Savings, and Fort Dearborn National banks, which, according to current reports, has been swelled to \$22,000,000 by subscriptions of Boston and New York institutions. Announcement of the pool has been extravagantly and erroneously reported. Even financial writers appear to have an inadequate conception of the magnitude of the live-stock industry and its present necessities, many assuming that twenty millions or so would amply take care of its needs. But the idea is obviously fallacious; in fact, such a sum will be a mere drop in the bucket compared with even partial requirements.

Formation of Live Stock Finance Corporation

Formation of this pool was a sequence of the Union League Club conference held at Chicago recently. A subsequent appeal to the Federal Reserve Board was abortive, as previous efforts of similar nature had been, and, realizing the necessity for throwing out some kind of a life-saver, the pool idea was conceived by M. K. Parsons, of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Frank J. Hagenbarth, president of the National Wool Growers' Association, who has been working in the East for its success. As a result, Chicago banks subscribed \$8,000,000, New York \$12,000,000, and Boston \$2,000,000; Minneapolis and St. Paul not having reported.

The Live Stock Finance Corporation has been formed with M. A. Traylor, of Chicago, as president; John R. Washburn, of Chicago, as vice-president, and John R. Fletcher, of Chicago, as treasurer. Frank Connor, of John Clay & Co., and Abe Wertheimer, of Rosenbaum Bros., complete the managerial force, which is obviously well equipped for the task.

Amount Subscribed Wholly Insufficient

Hardly had the fact been announced before more or less anxious inquiry fairly inundated every bank and commission house at Chicago. Clamor for "a piece of the money" came from every nook and cranny of the cattle- and sheep-raising country, many assuming that there would be money in abundance. Some financial writers jumped to the absurd conclusion that the problem of marketing the corn crop on four feet had been solved; that a stream of financial ammunition would flow into trade channels; that liquidation would be checked, feed-lots replenished, and every wrinkle in the path of the industry ironed out. And all with an insignificant \$22,000,000, or less than Swift raised in one week, and about 15 per cent of the volume of financing done by Armour, Swift, and Morris during the past ninety days! So far as the Corn Belt feeder is concerned, that portion of the pool available will resemble the core of the schoolboy's apple: there "won't be none." Definite announcement has been made that not a dollar of the fund will be available for new business, and that the money will be used

to care for maturing loans not readily marketable, with the object of averting liquidation.

The committee is now deliberating. An impression exists that certain western cattle-loan concerns, which are credited with being loaded to the guards with loans of the character described, will get most of the money to relieve the pressing necessities of their clients. In this respect the pool will prove a beneficence on a moderate scale; in fact, every dollar available for cattle and sheep loans in this emergency will prove effective in averting that much liquidation. But the banks participating in the plan are not institutions that invest in "cats and dogs," and most of the desirable loans are already placed.

Ephemeral Character of the Pool

The business of this pool must be wound up by March 1, 1922, and, as paper discounted may have a maturity of not more than six months, and be subject to renewal not exceeding six months, no loans will be made after March 1, 1921; giving the enterprise an ephemeral flavor. But the mere fact that such a corporation could be formed suggests possibilities for permanently financing the live-stock industry by similar effort. That the limited resources of western banks are not equal to the stupendous task of financing the cattle and sheep industries will not be disputed. Until recently western loans could be placed advantageously with New York and Boston banks, which took the business readily; but, as financial stringency increased, this source of money supply was rapidly eliminated, destroying the work of years, as Chicago, Kansas City, and Omaha banks and western loan concerns engaged in cattle and sheep financing had succeeded in establishing such credit only after years of strenuous effort. Possibly the gradual return of normal financial conditions will restore these eastern credits, but after the experience of the past year it must be evident that the system lacks the degree of stability essential to the welfare of the industry. In this emergency the live-stock grower was left practically to shift for himself, rendering ruinous liquidation imperative. As financial stringency increased, the bankers of each community were confronted with the problem of taking care of their local customers. Not only did live-stock credits disappear, but maturing loans were called, regardless of the sacrifice entailed or the needs of the industry. The records show that manufacturers, in a position to pay premiums for money, had preference in its distribution. The live-stock industry received only the crumbs that fell from the table, and they were both few and small. It was an emergency in which every man was naturally for himself, his satanic majesty getting the hindmost.

Present Credit System Unreliable

Obviously the eastern credit system laboriously built up in recent years by western banks and loan companies is not dependable. In this instance it went down like a house of

cards. In fair weather eastern bankers will lend their surplus power to distant borrowers, but at the first indication of a squall they issue mandatory recalls. Under such a financial system the live-stock industry cannot thrive. Stability of credit is as essential to its welfare as market stability, neither of which exists. The extent to which the East is dependent on the productive West is evident to any student of economic conditions; consequently it is the duty of its financiers to chart a safe course for the live-stock industry. This could be easily and promptly accomplished by the formation of a permanent corporation with a capital of \$100,000,000—an insignificant sum compared with the billions poured out of the coffers of Chicago and New York banks recently to provide working capital for innumerable industrial concerns. Such a corporation would have no difficulty in marketing bonds based on the paper in its possession, such securities running ten years or more, affording investors a safe and profitable place to put their money. All the project requires is energy and leadership. Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha, St. Louis, St. Paul, and Minneapolis should be equal to the task independent of New York and Boston, and the commercial and industrial prosperity of these communities depends, in a large measure, on the welfare of the cattle and sheep business.

Financing of Live-Stock Industry a Prime Necessity

If the West is to be prosperous, the live-stock industry must be adequately and permanently financed. This is of far greater importance than waterways, highways, or a dozen other national enterprises that are being energetically boosted. In such a financial plan the gambler, price-booster, and shoe-string operator should have no part. The business can be placed on a sounder basis by eliminating the speculative element that has been in no small measure responsible for recent vicissitude, as reams of excessive loans demonstrate. The live-stock industry needs producers, not price-boosters and speculators; and the scope of such a corporation should embrace only the actual cattle- and sheep-grower willing to risk part of the money required by the operation. Profitable, not excess, production should be the policy of the industry, and recent practice, stimulated by reckless lending during periods of easy money, has been exactly the reverse. A steady, dependable supply of money, at reasonable rates, with assurance of continuity of stock-cattle loans, will do more to put the business on its feet than anything else.

The bankers of the principal cities of the Mississippi Valley are under an obligation to foster the live-stock industry. Otherwise the corn crop will depreciate in value, as the bulk of it can be marketed profitably only on four legs; the wealth of roughage now valorized by cattle- and sheep-feeding will be mere waste, and the great packing centers will languish. Live stock is more essential than motor cars—an industry which the banks have shown marked favor.

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BUY prime 41% PROTEIN cake or meal
BUY prime 43% PROTEIN cake or meal
BUY prime DOUBLE screened PEA size cake 41% and 43% PROTEIN FOR FEEDING SHEEP

Freight rate too high to buy low grades!

WIRE or WRITE us for your REQUIREMENTS

MEMBERS: American Feed Manufacturers' Association, Interstate Cotton Seed Crushers' Association, Oklahoma Cotton Seed Crushers' Association

EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS IN OCTOBER

BELOW ARE SHOWN the exports of meat products from the United States in October, 1920, compared with October, 1919, and for the ten months ending October, 1920, compared with the same period in 1919:

BEEF PRODUCTS
(Pounds)

Classification	October		Ten Months Ending October	
	1920	1919	1920	1919
Beef, canned.....	207,503	1,793,784	23,277,150	50,588,017
Beef, fresh.....	522,251	31,170,249	85,010,091	152,714,143
Beef, pickled, etc.....	1,995,039	3,402,422	21,097,592	36,492,003
Oleo oil.....	10,580,005	6,810,457	59,933,055	62,479,876
Totals.....	13,304,798	43,176,912	189,317,888	302,274,039

PORK PRODUCTS
(Pounds)

Classification	October		Ten Months Ending October	
	1920	1919	1920	1919
Bacon.....	49,838,768	56,462,312	509,959,859	1,066,026,353
Ham (and shoulders).....	8,787,853	13,090,972	139,557,112	564,267,081
Lard.....	54,173,979	41,016,518	464,853,550	655,149,550
Neutral lard.....	1,672,253	1,733,938	20,937,566	21,892,468
Pork, pickled.....	3,549,456	3,804,135	33,519,508	25,053,629
Lard compounds.....	2,253,640	3,134,109	24,068,593	119,680,741
Totals.....	120,275,949	119,241,984	1,212,896,188	2,453,069,827

DECREASE IN WOOL STOCKS

A CONSIDERABLE REDUCTION of the stocks of wool held in manufacturers' and dealers' hands is indicated by returns collected by the Bureau of Markets as of September 30, 1920. This, of course, is partially balanced by an increase of stocks in the hands of producers. The quarterly report shows a total of 417,174,838 pounds of grease, scoured, and pulled wools in the hands of dealers, mills, and the government on the date mentioned. Similar figures in the report for September 30, 1919, show a total of 620,959,367 pounds. Making allowance for the quantity of scoured and pulled wools in these totals, a decline of about 32 per cent in the wool supply in the twelve months is indicated. Comparison of the 1920 and the 1919 figures shows that dealers now hold about 13 per cent less grease wool than they did twelve months ago, while manufacturers hold 58 per cent less.

In considering this showing, it is to be recalled that a great deal of this year's clip which might ordinarily be in dealers' or manufacturers' hands by September 30 has been held back. This would go far toward explaining the apparent reduction in stocks.

LIVE-STOCK LOANS**Cattle and Sheep Loans**
OUR SPECIALTY

Application
Blanks
at your
request



TELL US
YOUR
NEEDS

The Cattlemen's Loan & Guaranty Co.

214 BOSTON BUILDING
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CO-OPERATIVE SELLING OF WOOL

ADVANTAGES of pooling and co-operative selling of wool, as outlined by the Bureau of Markets, consist in permitting growers to sell their product collectively in large volume, thus attracting a greater number of buyers and making possible the payment of the full value. Large buyers are not attracted by individual clips, unless these are of considerable magnitude; nor is the local buyer able to pay the full price for wools which must be purchased a few fleeces at a time, and carried at his personal expense and risk until sufficient volume has been accumulated to permit his shipment to some central wool market.

Volume handling, such as is possible where the entire clip of the community is sold collectively, reduces the cost per pound of buying and handling, and permits the purchaser, whether a local wool merchant or some outside buyer, to pay a higher price per pound than is possible where it is necessary to purchase the wool in small lots.

The Stock Yards National Bank of Denver **AND The Denver Cattle Loan Co.**

LOCATED IN THE DENVER UNION STOCK YARDS

THE PIONEER STOCKMEN'S BANK OF THE WEST

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

HENRY GEBHARD, Vice-President
W. W. STEWART, Vice-President
E. B. HART, Auditor

FRANK M. BUTCHER, President
PAUL HARDEY, Cashier
N. F. BEACHAM, Assistant Cashier

IRA B. CASTEEL, Active Vice-President
JAMES BRENNAN, Director
J. A. SHOEMAKER, Director

Conversion of The Denver Stock Yards Bank to a National Bank we believe to be
in keeping with the growth of the Denver Live-Stock Market
Two institutions that have been prominently identified with the growth and success
of the Live-Stock Business in the Mountain States



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WHERE ALL DENVER WILL
SHOP AND SAVE

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It was the gift store of your parents and grandparents. Now it is your gift store. Concentrate your Xmas shopping here

IT PAYS TO PAY CASH



FOREIGN

ENGLISH LIVE-STOCK LETTER

BY JOSEPH RAYMOND

[Special Correspondence to The Producer]

LONDON, November 19, 1920.

THE PUBLIC seems not yet to have reached the limits of endurance of high prices in meat; for rates are actually still on the rise. Scotch beef is now costing in the London market \$3.24 per 8 pounds, wholesale (it may be clearer to my American readers to reckon 2 cents to the penny, as of yore, for the equivalent of sums under £1). English beef is selling in Smithfield at up to \$2.60 per 8 pounds, and Scotch mutton, tegs, up to \$4.16.

The present ability of the public to pay these prices for meat must, in the main, be attributed to the continued inflation of currency. An end might be expected when a disastrous winter of unemployment has depleted the domestic purse, but there are many authorities who contend that, beyond the comparatively brief period of winter unemployment, there may be no slump next year, but a continued commercial boom.

The meat trade, however, is itself anxious to get back to more reasonable rates, as the retail butcher finds it hard to make a profit at the present high scale. Moreover, directly the Ministry of Food drops meat control, as it is expected to do by not later than next March, there will be the full flood of free meat imports, which will be a seriously competing factor against sky-high values.

However, it is something of a symptom of dear rates ahead that those frozen-meat importers now seeking to do c. i. f. business with New Zealand are holding off such transactions, owing to the present maximum wholesale price limits imposed in Great Britain. The Ministry of Food itself anticipates a lower range of meat prices, in view of the greater cheapness of winter feed this year; but that is not the only factor. Meat-importers on this side are very nervous lest their inability to pay high prices for forward purchases of colonial meat should result in that meat going to America instead of to Great Britain.

Supplies of cattle at the various markets throughout Great Britain have been well maintained of late, the general quality shown being fair. Trade has been steady, the best fat beasts making up to \$22 per cwt., live weight (\$4 to £1), while many topped the \$20 mark. Poor-quality cattle have sold only slowly. Rather fewer fat sheep have been marketed during the present month, and competition for these has been keener, with a consequent advance in prices, first- and third-quality sheep averaging 52½ and 43½ cents per pound, respectively. The chief demand has been for best-quality animals of light weight. Pigs have been in good supply, but the demand has been tremendous. Calves are most eagerly sought for, very young animals realizing from 42 to 48 cents per pound.

The Ministry of Food has been congratulating itself upon the successful manner in which it has been clearing its old frozen-meat stocks of late, and it is reported that during the past six months it has reduced to one-fifth of its former dimensions the great stock of meat which it had on hand in this and other countries, the larger total probably being nearly half a million tons. One of the biggest meat deals on record has been the recent sale by the British government to Vestey Brothers of the total remaining stocks of frozen beef owned by the imperial government in all places, this transaction being supposed to be valued at about \$30,000,000. The same purchaser has bought all

the British government's frozen rabbits, and a good deal of the more or less stale cut carcasses of frozen mutton similarly owned.

At Cantley, near Norwich, in the midst of some of the best grazing country in the eastern counties of England, there was this week laid the foundation stone of a projected meat-works to be erected and operated on the most approved lines. This is the enterprise of the Improved Chilling and Transport, Ltd.—a company formed to exploit several processes, but in this instance to develop a meat-slaughtering and by-products business on economical lines in the interests of local meat-raisers. The company emphasizes the fact that its origin is purely British, and that it will not be connected with, or in any way influenced by, the American meat trust, of which English meat-growers are naturally very suspicious, in view of the great hold which it has already got in the meat-selling centers of Great Britain.

It is interesting to note each year the remarks of the Medical Officer of Health for the City of London on the quality of the meat passing through Smithfield markets, as this is an index to the current standard of the trade. Dr. W. J. Howarth, in his recently issued report, says:

"The meat derived from the United Kingdom was not generally of so high a quality as in pre-war years. This was due to a number of causes, but chiefly to the fact that animals were graded and sold at a fixed rate according to grade, and, as feeding-stuffs were costly, there was no inducement to farmers to produce exceptionally high-quality cattle. The quality of the imported meat passing through the market has been 'very fair,' but 'condition' has caused a considerable amount of extra work to the inspectors. Those remarks apply chiefly to mutton. Under 'control' only arranged quantities of each class of food were marketed daily. This resulted in quantities of mutton, which in normal times would have been marketed with all its bloom, arriving in the market cold stores, etc., in a moldy and decomposing condition, necessitating careful examination, much 'trimming,' and also increased condemnation."

EUROPEAN NEWS NOTES

Sweden Increasing Sheep Flocks

There are now 20 per cent more sheep in Sweden than before the war. The government is offering prizes with the object of improving the wool and breeding of the flocks.

Italy Reintroduces Meat-Rationing

War-time regulations in regard to food have been reinstated throughout Italy. The public sale of meat and serving of meat dishes at restaurants between Wednesday noon and Saturday morning have been prohibited. The necessity of conserving the cattle supply and the difficulty in the way of procuring foreign meat, due to the high exchange rate, are given as reasons.

Live-Stock Census in Denmark

The enumeration of July 15, 1920, showed the following live-stock supplies in Denmark, as compared with the numbers of a year ago:

	1920	1919
Cattle	2,286,000	2,188,000
Sheep	504,000	509,000
Hogs	1,008,000	716,000

Live Stock in Czechoslovakia

In the new republic of Czechoslovakia, carved out of the disintegrated Austro-Hungarian Empire, the latest census shows the following numbers of live stock, which we compare with pre-war figures (the 1919 returns are of May 31 for Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia, and of July 31 for Slovakia):

	1919	1910-11
Cattle	3,329,000	4,440,000
Hogs	1,419,000	2,492,000
Sheep	717,000	635,000
Goats	945,000	679,000

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DENVER

Latest German Live-Stock Figures

On the authority of the International Institute of Agriculture, live stock in Germany, according to the latest census, shows the following numbers, as compared with those of 1912:

	1920	1912
Cattle	16,982,000	16,445,000
Sheep	7,021,000	6,242,000
Hogs	11,657,000	9,430,000

"This simple comparison," comments a French exchange, "demonstrates the bad faith of the Germans who pretend that the restoration of the animals stolen from France and Belgium will ruin them."

Meat Shortage in France

France faces an annual deficit of 300,000 to 400,000 tons of meat for some years to come, according to the American consul at Paris. This deficit must be met by imports of frozen meat or by the substitution of fish. Frozen meat now costs almost as much as fresh meat in France. Fresh meat is so high that many people have been forced to eliminate it from their diet.

The Paris city council has decided to go into the stock-raising business in order to bring down the cost of living. Experts, after months of study, have fixed on pigs and rabbits as multiplying the fastest and being looked after the easiest. Enormous quantities of vegetable refuse now thrown away will be used to feed the animals. It is calculated that about 20,000 rabbits and 18,000 pigs can be thus provided with food.

"Ever since the war, beasts in France have been slaughtered too young," says the London Times, "and now, when it is almost too late, active steps are in contemplation for a proper limitation of the slaughtering of calves. For another thing, country people now eat meat to an extent unheard of before the war. The same is true of industrial workers in the towns, who not only eat more meat than in the old days, but also take advantage of their higher wages to eat the best qualities, leaving cold-storage meat to the middle classes."

HEREFORD BREEDERS

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Wm. Erdman

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Mousel's Mighty Beau Mischief,
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YOUNG STOCK ALWAYS FOR SALE

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F. R. DORR Specializing in
Irrigated Lands in

The Hereford Circle

(Adjoining Denver)

Where 25 years' experience has given me
authoritative knowledge of water rights

Colorado National Bank Building DENVER, COLO.

Live-Stock Census in United Kingdom

Live stock in Ireland on June 1, 1920, has been thus estimated by the Department of Agriculture of that country (we add, for comparison, the figures for 1919):

	1920	1919
Cattle	5,020,000	5,029,000
Sheep	3,589,000	3,513,000
Hogs	980,000	978,000

Returns for the whole of the United Kingdom, as of June 1, 1920, show the following numbers, compared with those of the same date last year:

	1920	1919
Cattle	11,731,000	12,454,000
Sheep	23,314,000	25,048,000
Hogs	3,103,000	2,914,000

Foot-and-Mouth Disease Shows No Abatement

"Cures" for foot-and-mouth disease continue to be announced. The latest come from France, where no less than three remedies have recently been discovered by bacteriologists in different parts of that country. All are in the form of vaccines, and are said to have given highly satisfactory results.

No official report of the international foot-and-mouth disease congress held in Buenos Aires this fall has as yet come to hand. Presumably little was accomplished beyond debate and a comparison of learned notes. Definite practical results are seldom worked out at congresses.

Meanwhile the disease is still rampant throughout Europe. Virtually the whole continent is affected. In England new outbreaks are of almost weekly occurrence.

RANCHING IN RHODESIA

RANCHES IN SOUTH AFRICA, like those of Australia and South America, are of extensive area. Writing from one in southern Rhodesia comprising 2,500,000 acres (3,900 square miles—more than three times the size of Rhode Island), belonging to the British South Africa Company, a recent traveler says:

"The chartered company has 55,000 cattle on this ranch and 40,000 on another. Cattle do very well here. They are grading up from native cattle and are using bulls of several breeds to see which are the most successful. They are trying Shorthorns, Devons, Herefords, and Polled Angus. The cattle are all herded by day and kraaled at night to save them from lions, leopards, and wild dogs. They have killed about 215 lions in the last seven or eight years, but they [the lions presumably] are apparently as numerous as ever. Three boys herd 200 cattle or thereabout. All herding is done on foot. Horse sickness kills off horses too frequently to allow many horses to be used. This ranch is divided into sections, and each section has 5,000 to 6,000 cattle on it."

NOTES FROM CANADA

Decline in Canadian Live Stock

Estimates based on returns collected from individual farmers throughout the Dominion indicate that Canada's live-stock supplies, with the exception of sheep, are smaller than a year ago. The numbers are given as below:

	1920	1919
Cattle	9,477,000	10,084,000
Sheep	3,721,000	3,422,000
Hogs	3,517,000	4,040,000

Cattle show a decrease in all provinces; sheep have increased in all provinces except Manitoba; hogs have decreased in all provinces save Prince Edward Island.

Farmers of Western Canada Organizing

It is reported from Winnipeg that plans have been completed by farmers of western Canada for holding back their wheat for better prices. The crop of the three western provinces will be marketed co-operatively through machinery similar in operation to that of the Canadian Wheat Board, which is now practically out of business. A board of representatives of grain-growers' organizations will control distribution and prices, and the grain will be sold through a central clearing-house at Winnipeg. Contract-holders will bind themselves to sell all their wheat through the pool for a period of five years.

WOOL STOCK IN SOUTH AFRICA

A CABLEGRAM from the American vice-consul at Cape Town states that, according to estimates, there are 130,000 bales of wool on hand in the Union of South Africa. Stocks at this date in normal years never exceeded 10,000 bales.

Before the war Germany was the largest purchaser of South African wool. Since then the place of that country has been taken by the United States and Japan. It is believed that Germany will again become the buyer of such wools as she needs for her industries, and that the United States will not purchase to the same extent as it has done during the last few years.

ARGENTINE PORK ARRIVING IN NEW YORK

A SHIPMENT of 90,000 pounds of fresh pork was recently received in New York from Argentina. Loins, shoulders, and butts made up the shipment, which was consigned to one of the large packers. The quality was reported to be excellent. This is the first time on record that fresh pork has been imported into the United States from that country.

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who called our

Yearling Heifers

"The most uniform bunch I have seen any place."

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Dam, Gramophone 6th, by Domino
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Dam, Donna Anna 22nd, by
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These two richly bred bulls at the head of a herd of straight
Anxiety cows of extreme quality should produce cattle
which will be a credit to the breed.

Our Aim is to Serve
Write or Come

L. A. BURSON, Morrill, Neb.

LIVE-STOCK INTERESTS IN AUSTRALASIA

BY A. C. MILLS

[Special Correspondence to The Producer]

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, October 14, 1920.

ALTERNATING RAIN AND SHINE, and not too much cold weather, has put the live-stock industry in Australia in great heart. The season is developing as well as possible, and there can be no fear of a shortage of natural feed for many months to come. The difficulty at the moment is to find the stock to eat the grass down. It is pretty well belly-high, even in the late districts, and, given an at all hot summer, the risk of fires will be considerable. The far north of the continent is enjoying a normal season—dry and bright. We do not look for the rain there until toward the end of November, when thunderstorms are due; and from then on it should be wet for three or four months.

Cattle-killing for the frozen-meat export trade in Queensland is just about finished. Two or three of the packing-plants have a few small lines to clear up, but all should be closed by the end of October. Unfortunately the Townsville works will be obliged to close down earlier than expected, owing to the action of the wharf lumpers. For some reason best known to themselves, they have lately refused to work overtime and generally delayed loading. The position has become so bad that the shipping controller has been forced to cut the port out of the itinerary of oversea steamers. As soon as the cold stores are full, which will probably be this week, killing must cease. According to the latest advice, about 15,000 head of prime cattle on their way to the works will have to be turned back to pastures.

From the foregoing, and what has been written in previous letters, it will be gathered that the lot of the stock-owner in Queensland is not all a bed of roses. Apart from the meat ex-

port trade being hung up by the action of the wharf laborers, the opening of the wool sales has had to be postponed for the same reason. The government apparently is not moving a hand to end the trouble, which was hardly to be expected, considering that the party in power is wedded to socialism, or next door to it. The worst of it is that the elections held a few days ago gave the government a further three years of life. That almost certainly means the commandeering for local consumption, and at absurdly low prices, of a considerable proportion of the meat going through the packing-works again next season. It was this commandeered meat, retailed out in all the large towns and cities through the state butcher shops, that helped to keep the party in power at the elections. It is too much to hope that the government will in any way loosen hold.

Exports of frozen meat from the Commonwealth last month were moderate, totaling 152,400 quarters of beef and 160,000 carcasses of mutton and lamb. The output for the first quarter of the current financial year stands thus: 309,000 quarters of beef, 420,000 carcasses of mutton, and 124,000 carcasses of lamb. The figures for the corresponding three months of 1919 were 472,000 quarters of beef, 590,000 sheep, and 162,000 lambs.

Stud Merino breeders have had a jolly time with the South African buyers during the last three months. A contingent of Merino men come over to Australia every winter, and usually take back a number of high-priced bucks. This year has been no exception. Indeed, the sales reported have probably been more numerous, and the prices certainly higher, than ever before. The record is the sale of one four-year-old special stud ram and twenty stud ewes for the lump sum of \$30,000. The highest price for an individual ram was \$20,000, and two others sold for \$18,000 and \$17,000, respectively. Numbers ranged between \$10,000 and \$5,000, while sales of bucks at from \$5,000 to \$10,000 were common.

The supply of fats coming into the markets is rapidly approaching normal, and values are working back to a more reasonable level. There has been a considerable all-round drop since last writing. The following are current quotes at the different Metropolitan municipal sale-yards: Sydney, New South Wales—prime bullocks, suitable for the best class of butchering trade, to \$110, and a few up to \$130; light ditto, to \$100; prime cows for cutting, \$70 to \$80; prime cross-bred wethers, \$7.25 to \$9.50; medium ditto, to \$6.70; cross-bred ewes, \$7.25 to \$9.50; prime Merino wethers, \$8.60 to \$10.75; Merino ewes, to \$8.40. Melbourne, Victoria—prime heavy bullocks, \$160 to \$180; light ditto, \$100 to \$130; cows, to \$150; best cross-bred wethers, full-wooled, \$9.50 to \$11.50; medium ditto, \$8.60 to \$9.50; cross-bred ewes, \$8.50 to \$10; shorn wethers, \$8.25 to \$8.75; spring lambs, prime condition, \$6.75 to \$7.50. Brisbane, Queensland—good, heavy steers, \$70 to \$95; cows, \$50 to \$90.

Seasonal conditions in New Zealand are not so favorable as is usual at this time of the year. The north has had a spell of very frosty and cold weather, which has cut feed back. As a result stock, particularly cattle, are having a bad time, and some heavy losses are reported in parts. It is most unfortunate that this severe spell should have fallen right at the end of the winter, when the reserves of artificial feed had given out. The principal losers are dairy farmers. The bulk of the south continues in good heart.

Further heavy shipments of frozen lamb and mutton were made to New York on account of the British government last month. Two boats cleared, carrying 438,544 carcasses of lamb and 21,317 carcasses of mutton. Since the first shipment in March and up to the end of September 1,897,680 lambs and 47,938 sheep have been dispatched to ports on the Atlantic coast, and 10,060 lambs to the Pacific coast of the United States. It is understood that, to complete the contracts, four more vessels are loading, and will between them lift some 600,000 lambs and 100,000 sheep.

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from \$900 for a six-horse tractor that will handle any piece of farm machinery, to \$6,000 for C. L. Best Track-layer Tractors handling four to six plows and separators up to 30-inch.

Wagons, Trailers, Garage Equipment, Slips, Fresnoes, Road Graders and Drags

Send for prices and information
Biggest stock in the West

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DENVER SALT LAKE
Department B

The total shipments of frozen meat from New Zealand to all oversea ports during the three months, July, August, and September, were 232,000 quarters of beef, 1,987,000 carcasses of lamb, and 1,204,000 carcasses of mutton. The figures for the corresponding period of 1919 were 197,000 quarters of beef, 616,000 carcasses of lamb, and 1,114,000 carcasses of mutton. The large increase in lamb output this year is accounted for entirely by the trade with America.

The feeling against Armour & Co. being granted a license to kill stock in New Zealand seems to be dying out to some extent. Probably more resolutions in favor than against have been passed during the last few weeks. The argument that the greater the competition the better the trade has been strengthened by interviews appearing in the press with two or three recent visitors from Argentina. In discussing that country, they have rather made a point that the operations of the Americans have improved the prices of stock, without having detrimental effects, from their point of view. These statements have certainly carried a good deal of weight with the section of producers that looks to the present and lets the future go hang. However, the majority of proprietary packing companies, and practically all the co-operative companies which own packing-works, are still strongly opposed to the firm being allowed to obtain a footing.

So far the government has not announced its intentions, but if the license is granted it will be mainly because the weight of opinion among producers is in favor of it. The same will probably apply to its revocation later, should such action ever be considered necessary. It will then be interesting to see how the government will act if Armour & Co. lay their plans so as to secure a large body of farmers on their side. It has been pointed out that it is quite possible for them to do this, if they care to. The high prices at which farms have been bought recently, and the amount of financing required for stock, wool, etc., leave an opening for a firm with unlimited capital to obtain a hold. There is nothing to prevent Armour, or anybody else, from being so far-reaching as to obtain a lien over a crop of lambs, say, and so force public opinion in his favor. The position is full of interest.

LIVE-STOCK LOSSES IN AUSTRALASIA

AT THE BEGINNING OF 1920, according to the *Pastoral Review* of Melbourne, sheep in the Commonwealth of Australia numbered approximately 78,000,000 and cattle 11,841,000 (as against 86,660,000 sheep and 12,349,000 cattle in 1919—see JUNE PRODUCER). "The drought, however," says that paper, "did not break till about June, and it can be taken as certain that the losses in the first six months of 1920 were very heavy. What they actually were is hard to estimate."

Complete returns of the live-stock enumeration of January 1, 1920, are now at hand for New South Wales (compilation of census figures seems as slow a process in Australia as in the United States), where the following supplies were recorded: sheep, 33,466,000 (39,019,000 in 1919); cattle, 2,852,000 (3,077,000 in 1919). These figures, no more than the foregoing, reflect actual losses. Sheep in that state at present, it is estimated, do not number more than about 28,000,000.

On April 30, 1920, the Dominion of New Zealand had 23,915,000 sheep—1,914,000 fewer than on the corresponding date a year ago.

"THE PRODUCER is the best stockman's magazine on the market, bar none. It is a magazine of the highest type, from reading-matter down to the excellent paper on which it is printed. During these days of fluctuating markets it is the only thing relating to cattle where a cattleman can get a run for his money. The man who subscribes for THE PRODUCER gets action on his money, and big action at that."—E. W. BRIM, Galax, Va.

CATTLE IN BRAZIL

FROM AN INTERESTING ACCOUNT of a trip to South America, appearing in the *Breeder's Gazette*, we quote the following paragraphs relative to the cattle industry in Brazil:

"I saw the Armour packing-plant [at Sao Paulo]. It cost more than \$7,000,000. . . . It will have, when completed, a capacity of 1,000 cattle per day. It is feared that native stockmen will not have sufficient cattle on the market every day to keep the plant going steadily. The Armours have therefore bought and rented several large *facendas* [ranches], comprising more than 6,000 acres each, up at Barretos, 300 miles north of Sao Paulo, where they can buy and fatten cattle brought down from the Matto Grosso and Minas districts, 800 to 1,000 miles to the north. . . .

"A great many of the native cattle-breeders are immensely rich, and do not feel the necessity of breeding cattle of better quality. Brazilian cattle are too leggy and light and narrow in the flank. They need to be bred up as our Texas cattle were forty years ago. They will come to it eventually. There is no sale for their meat in the Liverpool market. The meat that is not needed for home consumption is sold in the West Indies and southern Europe. The reason for crossing with the Zebu is on account of its hardiness, insusceptibility to the tick, and prolificacy. A Zebu cow has a calf every eleven months. Murdo Mackenzie, in a speech at Chicago last February, suggested that the Shorthorn, Hereford, and Aberdeen-Angus associations establish breeding *facendas* in Brazil, getting the cows and bulls for the initial herds from the tick districts in the United States and Uruguay. The calves born in Brazil, with the proper care, would aid immensely in the production of better beef."

In the *Daily Drovers' Journal-Stockman* of South Omaha recently appeared a letter from E. Z. Russell, who is one of the live-stock commissioners sent to South America by the Department of Agriculture. The letter is dated Passo Fundo, Brazil, October 11. We quote the following extracts:

"We left Buenos Aires on September 18, stopping first at Salto, Uruguay—a town on the Argentine border toward the northern part of the country. . . . That part of the country is all ranch, raising cattle and sheep in about equal numbers. On most of the ranches they sow oats for pasture and then let it go for a grain crop. Some corn is raised, but in very limited quantities. The corn they do raise is of a small, flinty variety. Most of it is planted by hand and never cultivated. Under these conditions, in a good year, they will get from 25 to 40 bushels per acre. . . .

"There are more Hereford cattle than any other breed in Uruguay; Shorthorns coming next, then Angus. We occasionally see a few Devons, Normandies, and Holsteins. The sheep grown are generally Lincolns, with quite a few Romney Marsh. These sheep range about like cattle; not going in flocks. Some of these ranchers are using Merino and Rambouillet rams to get a finer quality of wool. The coarse-wool market here is dead. A number of these men told me they had their last year's crop on hand and couldn't get an offer for it. . . .

"They had a live-stock show at Salto which we visited. It was mostly cattle, although there was quite a good showing of sheep. It was a show of practically all bulls. There were about 2,000 of them. Probably 1,600 were what we would call high-grade range bulls. . . . The two kinds of bulls here are the pedigreed ones, which, of course, are pure-breds, and the 'pure by crossing,' or grade bulls. Salto is in the tick territory, and these range bulls are brought in to the show and sold at auction to go into northern Uruguay and Brazil, where they must have bulls that are immune to ticks. . . .

"We stopped one day on a ranch of 68,000 acres, 44,000 of which were owned by the rancher, the balance being leased at a rental of approximately 75 cents per acre a year. This man had about 14,000 head of cattle and an equal number of sheep. He had 1,700 three- and four-year-old steers that were getting about ready to market. A buyer for Morris & Co. from Montevideo was there and bought a trainload (about 250 head). These cattle would weigh in the neighborhood of 950 to 1,000 pounds, and would net him about \$75 per head at home. This man told us his sheep were about paying all the running expenses of the place, including rent, leaving the amount he received for his cattle for profit.

[Continued on page 46]

Hides, Furs Pelts, Wool

Forty-two years of square dealing have earned for me the confidence of dealers and shippers in the Western territory, which is proven by the fact that I handle more hides direct from the Farmer and Ranchman than any concern in the West.

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UNION STOCK YARDS
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ROUND THE RANGE

CATTLE CHARACTERS MODIFIED BY ENVIRONMENT

Breeds of cattle are largely the products of environment. It has even been asserted that red soil has given rise to red-colored breeds, and it is true that on the old red or Devonian sandstone soils of England we find the red Devon cattle, while similar soils have in many instances borne the Sussex, Red Poll, Hereford, and Lincolnshire Red Shorthorn, so noted as a milk breed, says a writer in *Wallaces' Farmer*. However that may be, it is certain that soil, climate, and consequent abundance or dearth of feed, have molded the form of the cattle produced in the various districts of Great Britain and other countries, and as surely are having modifying effects in America. The fad of mere color is fast dying out. Red Shorthorns once were "all the go" with us; now white animals are as popular and fashionable. We have seen the "red and all-red" give way here to the "red, white, and roan" of mellow skin and mossy coat, and to the all-white. At the recent English Royal Show four of the first prize-winners were white.

"American breeders have practically revolutionized the Galloway breed of cattle. The great coat of rough, curly black hair was the natural product of the wet, cool, stormy climate of southwestern Scotland. Much of it has been lost here, just as Collies and Clydes and Shires have lost much of the hairiness which characterized them in their home countries. But the loss of coat, no doubt unfortunate in some ways, has been offset by marked improvement in size, earlier maturing and beefing qualities. . . .

"Herefords also have been improved. Formerly they were too peaked in the hind parts and lacked the square fullness of the Shorthorn. That fault has been modified for the better, and the hind-quarters of the modern American Hereford will weight approximately as heavy as its fore-quarters, which probably was not the case in bygone days. It is, we think, safe to assert that the American Hereford today is quite as good, if not considerably better, in every respect, than the imported stocks from which it sprang. . . .

"The Aberdeen-Angus also has been greatly improved in some respects; and Holstein cattle have, as a breed, been brought to a stage of far higher development and performance here than in their native land. Jerseys have correspond-

ingly been bettered in size and constitution, and similar improvement is noticeable in the Guernsey; while the Ayrshire, although changed in color from red-and-white to almost white since we have known it, has, in America, been improved in milk-yielding capacity, and especially in size of teats."

Speaking of Holsteins, it is interesting to note that the cattle of this breed were largely red up to the middle of the eighteenth century. When black-and-white cattle from Denmark were introduced into Holland, that color became the more popular. Red-and-white cattle are still common in the latter country, and in Friesland they are registered in a separate section of the official herd-book.

THE WHALE AS A MEAT-PRODUCER

To what extent whale meat is destined to supplant other articles of diet to which the American palate is more accustomed is a problem primarily of gastronomy and household economics. If it can be placed on the market in sufficient quantities, sold more cheaply than our traditional meats, and prepared into as toothsome dishes, it may eventually become as popular in this country as it is, for instance, in Japan. With the object of making it so, an increasing number of whaling stations, scattered along the Pacific coast from the Aleutian Islands to the State of Washington, are today in active operation capturing, killing, and preparing the product of these monsters of the sea. The catch is now reported to be over a thousand annually.

When it is remembered that whales may reach a length of seventy-five feet, and that one of merely average size furnishes as much flesh as 100 steers or 500 sheep, it will be realized that a permanent and regular supply of even a relatively small number might prove a serious competitor to our domestic meat animals. This contingency, however, seems quite remote. Not only must the hunt, in the nature of things, be surrounded by a great deal of hardship and uncertainty, but there is no assurance that the supply is anything like inexhaustible. A few decades of reckless slaughter saw the practical extermination of our countless hordes of buffaloes.

The meat of the whale extends in great, boneless masses, of uniform quality, from the base of the skull to the tail fin. In

appearance it is similar to beef, but is somewhat coarser in texture. Its flavor suggests venison. One of the best "cuts" is the heart, which weighs a bagatelle of 3,000 pounds. The tongue will reach the same weight, but is much tougher than ox tongue. As the whale is presumed to be disease-free, the flesh is considered particularly wholesome. In its preparation it is treated like other fresh meats; that is, after butchering on board ships, it is placed in ice in the holds, taken to railway ports, and shipped in refrigerator cars.

HAIRLESS PIGS

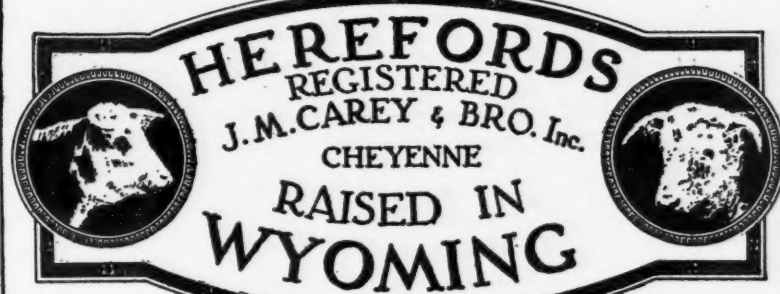
Most hog-raisers are familiar with the hairless pig. Every spring produces its crop. In some parts of the country losses from this source are large. At the University of Wisconsin and the Montana Experiment Station recent investigations have determined the cause of the trouble. It is goiter, produced by a ration of too high protein content. This on the authority of D. W. Smith, of the former institution, who in the *Breeder's Gazette* describes the malady and its origin:

"Hairless pigs are of normal weight and size—perhaps a little above normal weight. They are generally carried the full gestation period, and often four to seven days beyond. When absolutely hairless and born alive, they may live a few hours after birth, but die sooner or later. They are characterized by thick, pulpy necks and thick skins; have no squeal and no vitality. When perfectly hairless the skin is smooth, shiny, and bald, except for a few hairs around the eyes and nose. The hoofs of hairless pigs are thin-walled and undeveloped."

The swelling of the neck is caused by enlargement of the thyroid gland; in other words, goiter. This condition also occurs in sows giving birth to hairless pigs, but does not affect their health. To ascertain the possible connection between the disease and the feed of the mother-sows, in the Wisconsin experiments a number of sows were fed different rations, from which the following conclusions are drawn:

"The best ration has a restricted protein content and a liberal roughage content. Too much reliance should not be laid on skim-milk and grains for breeding gilts, but alfalfa or clover should be introduced to the extent of 25 per cent of the ration.

"Ordinarily the most important considerations in the prevention of hairless pigs are proper feeding practices, coupled with a provision for dry quarters and abundant exercise. Where hairless pigs have occurred before, however, the swine-grower should insure his spring pigs by feeding his sows one-third of an ounce of potassium iodide to every 100 pounds of feed. The best results have been obtained when this has been fed during the entire gestation period, although good results have occurred when the iodide was fed for only seventy-five days."



WINTERING BROOD SOWS

During the winter the brood sows should be maintained as cheaply as possible, but at the same time they must be properly fed, in order to farrow a large number of healthy, well-grown pigs in the spring, says the Department of Agriculture. Best results are obtained when sufficient food is given to produce daily gains in the sows of one-half or three-fourths of a pound. To do this, the grain feed must be limited, and diluted with some roughage; for, unless the ration has sufficient bulk, the sows will become constipated and hungry, due to the undistended condition of the digestive tract. Legume hays (alfalfa, clover, soybean, or cow-pea) are the chief roughages available at this season, and their use will cheapen the cost of feeding; but under no circumstances should a brood sow be fed upon any roughage which is not bright, nutritious, and free from smut or mold.

CHICAGO AS A LIVE-STOCK MARKET

Since the Union Stock Yards of Chicago opened for business there have been received and sold within their gates a grand total of more than 618,000,000 animals, which brought their owners the sum of \$14,200,000,000. Last year there were received and sold on the Chicago market over 18,000,000 animals, realizing \$880,893,000; or an average every business day of over 1,000 carloads, worth nearly \$3,000 per car.

HOLSTEIN COWS FOR FRANCE

Arrangements have been completed for the shipment of a thousand American Holsteins to the devastated regions of France. The matter is in charge of a committee appointed by the Holstein associations of several central western states. The animals are to be donated outright. Holstein breeders everywhere are invited to take part.

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Herefords

FOR SALE

20 Head Regist'd 2-year-old Bulls
25 Head " Yearling Bulls
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Desert cattle outfit for sale on reasonable basis; conveniently located as to railroads; 3,500 head of cattle; land, water, and range rights with carrying capacity of 5,000 head, together with good irrigated hay ranch capable of producing 1,500 tons alfalfa hay, centrally located; warm country; no hay required for stock cattle in winter season. This is a low-operating-cost proposition. Dealings will be with owners—no commissions nor middlemen. Would consider a proposition to deal on outfit separate from the hay ranch if preferred. If interested, address

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New Mexico

45,000-ACRE TRACT

North Central New Mexico; especially adapted to sheep raising; abundance of water; recognized as one of best winter ranges in the state; forest reserve in reach; thousands of fence posts, some timber, some irrigation possibilities; absolutely good title; oil and mineral included; price \$2.75 per acre; one-fifth cash; any reasonable terms on balance; deal with owners by wire or mail.

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300,000 Acres \$1.25 Per Acre

Pine Timber Land; State of Chihuahua, Mexico. Splendid Milling Property. Will make one of the best Cattle and Sheep Ranches in all Mexico. Timber alone worth ten times the price of the land in fee. Well watered. Parts of the land will grow corn, beans, etc. Full reports furnished interested parties. Not afraid to give others opportunity to make some money; therefore will cooperate; I am not in the all-hog class. Exclusively by

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Fruit Farm

Near Fruita, Colo.

ATTRACTIVE—PROFITABLE

Consisting of 28 acres, all in cultivation: 18 acres in apple and pear orchard, 10 acres in alfalfa and truck farm. Four-room frame house; packing-house, 30x90; barn, chicken-house, etc. Fine shaded drive from road to house. Grove around buildings, which are painted gray and white, with green roofs. Good repair. Grand Valley water rights. Call and see pictures.

Price \$15,000. Terms.

The E. C. Huffman Realty and Inv. Co.
17th and Welton Sts., Denver, Colo.

DECREASE IN NEW ENGLAND FARMS

Census returns show the extent, for the last decade, of that decrease in the number of New England's farms which has come to be looked for as a permanent feature of our decennial stock-takings. In 1920 and 1910 the following numbers of farms were reported from the six states:

State	1920	1910
Maine	48,228	60,016
New Hampshire . . .	20,523	27,053
Vermont	29,072	32,709
Massachusetts	31,982	36,917
Connecticut	22,655	26,815
Rhode Island	4,084	5,292

Totals 156,544 188,802

MILK GOATS IN THE UNITED STATES

Milk-goat breeding establishments in the United States number 304, says the Bureau of Animal Industry. More than one-third of these are in California. The largest is located at Pescadero. Here 15 registered and 2,500 unregistered does of milking age are maintained. These flocks consist of the Anglo-Nubian and Toggenburg breeds.

CARRYING PIGS THROUGH WINTER

Autumn is the season when hog-raisers should plan to get their animals through the winter economically and in a healthy condition. The size and condition of the litters next spring will depend upon the care given this winter, says R. W. Clark, of the Colorado Agricultural College.

"The main thing is to provide plenty of exercise. They should have the run of the fields as soon as possible. It stimulates vigor and hardiness and reduces the feed bill. The weather is never too cold or unpleasant for hogs to take a trip to the fields.

"The next thing is to provide dry, clean, sanitary sleeping-places. These need not be expensive, and they can be made of any kind of timber, straw, poor-quality hay, or other waste roughage. Hogs should not sleep in manure piles—it reduces their vigor and encourages disease.

"If hogs have the run of the fields, they pick up a great deal of their living, and if given a pound or two of grain a day per head, along with alfalfa hay, a little beet pulp, skim milk, or even silage, they will go through the winter in good shape at a very low cost. Dry-land farmers lack some of the foods mentioned, but they have corn, and by feeding a little tankage with it they will secure equally good results."

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THE FIRST LIVE-STOCK RETURNS

The first states for which returns of the federal agricultural census of January 1, 1920, are available are Tennessee, Rhode Island, and Utah. On that date there were reported in these three states the following numbers of live stock, as compared with the figures of ten years ago:

TENNESSEE

	Jan. 1, 1920	Apr. 15, 1910
Horses	317,951	*333,025
Mules	352,560	*266,768
Cattle	1,161,847	*882,342
Sheep	364,196	*470,337
Swine	1,832,307	.....

RHODE ISLAND

Horses	6,540	* 9,527
Mules	75	* 63
Cattle	30,519	*30,375
Sheep	2,736	* 4,206
Swine	12,869	.....

UTAH

Horses	125,471	* 111,135
Mules	2,793	* 2,139
Cattle	505,578	* 379,292
Sheep	1,691,795	*1,670,890
Goats	29,512	.....
Swine	99,361	.....

*Exclusive of spring colts, calves, and lambs.

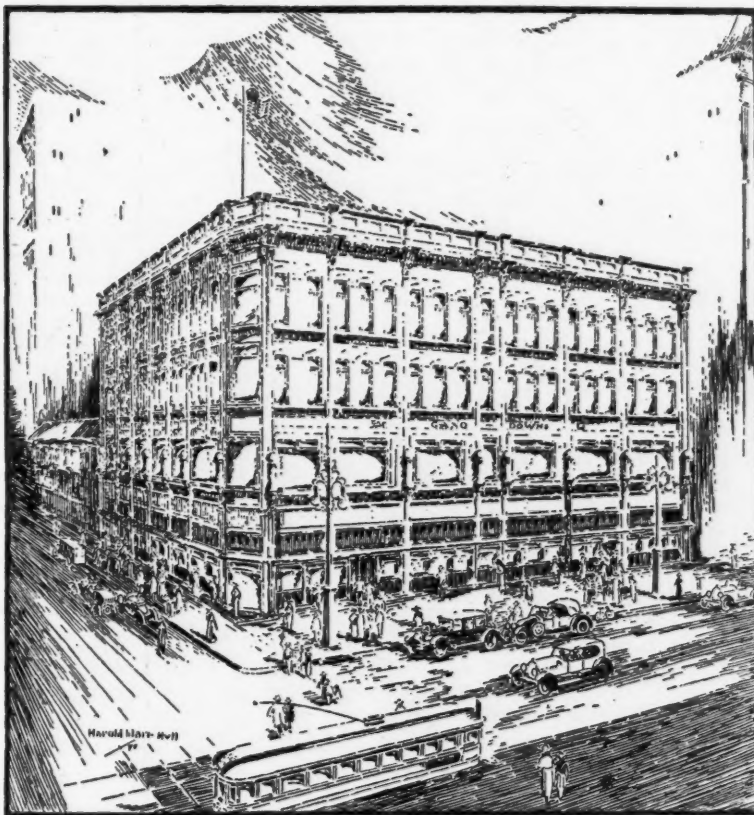
THOSE TEXAS COWS!

The latest version of that German-Texan cow tale, to which we have previously made reference, is to the effect that a representative of the German government is at present in Texas superintending the purchase of 35,000 cows, to be shipped to Germany as soon as they can be assembled. "No effort," it is added reassuringly, "will be made to select only blooded animals," as the need for dispatch is urgent. This initial lot may be followed by other large shipments, we are told.

As will be recalled, the original edition of this wheeze had it that a certain munificent society in this country proposed to "loan" 150,000 Texan milk cows to Germany; the "loan" to be on the ground of anxiety lest the animals fall into the hands of the rapacious Allies. A sample shipment of 150 beasts, it was reported, actually had sailed from Galveston.

Subsequently it was announced from Berlin that the German food controller had objected to the acceptance of 5,000 American gift cows, owing to scarcity of fodder. The newest amendment would seem to indicate that the government now has overcome its fear of starving the cows.

As Germany has today actually more cattle than before the war, we venture the suggestion that American sympathies and generosity might be directed into more profitable channels—for instance, by contributing toward the relief of the three and a half million famished children in Europe, outside of Germany, for whom Herbert Hoover has sent out such eloquent appeal.



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HEADQUARTERS FOR THE WESTERN STOCKMAN



Quality Stays UP Prices Are Down

WOMEN who have searched and hoped for more favorable buying opportunities will welcome this news. The tendency for more moderate prices is definitely apparent at Lewis'.

Striking Winter Apparel that portrays appropriate fashions is arriving daily. There is a wonderful choice of rich-toned duvetyns, tricotines, and twills to be had, and at prices pleasingly lower than for many seasons.



50 Specialized Departments

*We prepay transportation charges on
anything anywhere
—we make no exceptions*

(Concluded from page 41)

"The railway company will not accept stock for shipment in less than trainloads. If a man has one or two cars to sell, he must get in with someone else and make up a train.

"Along the northern part of Uruguay we found the best grass we have so far found on the trip. We were told that the grass here would keep one cow and calf and a sheep on a hectare (about two and a half acres). They pasture twelve months in the year, the grass remaining green all through the winter. On only one place did we see a silo, and it was not filled. We haven't yet seen a stack of hay on any of the places.

"... I was on one ranch of between 400,000 and 500,000 acres. These people have about 30,000 head of cattle and about as many sheep. The cattle were of very poor quality. They are attempting to breed them up, and have a few very good Hereford and Shorthorn bulls. The sheep were small, and a considerable number scabby. These people have two cattle-killing establishments where they slaughter annually about 80,000 head of cattle. All the meat is dried and sold in Brazil or Cuba.

"We haven't seen very many good cattle since we left Uruguay, and so far the farther north we go the poorer the quality of the cattle. The cattle here are a mixture of almost anything, including the native Creole—a thin, unqualified, long-horned, small-bodied animal. We also find a few crossed with the Zebus. Farther north and west in Brazil they are using large numbers of Zebus. These Zebus seem to be very resistant to ticks."

STOCK-RAISING IN CHINA

DURING THE MANY CENTURIES of the monarchy the government of China did little or nothing to encourage and develop the live-stock industry of that country. In breeding and marketing its swarming herds the most primitive methods prevailed, perpetuated through the ages by the innate conservatism of John Chinaman. But the new republic is going to change all this, we are told in *American Industries*. Recently a Wool and Leather Industries Commission was established at Peking, among whose functions will be the following:

"To locate the regions best suited for raising cattle and sheep, and to study the present output, quality, demand, and transportation facilities of wool and leather in these regions.

"To ascertain the quantity and kinds of wool and leather required by foreign countries, and to study the world's trade conditions concerning wool and leather.

"To introduce and to encourage scientific stock-raising.

"To formulate methods of rendering assistance to the people in their enterprises.

"To select and purchase the best domestic and foreign breeds of cattle and sheep, which are to be sold at cost to the breeders.

"To train technical assistants for cattle- and sheep-raising, and wool- and leather-making, and also to study the methods of providing for hygienic conditions for the domestic animals.

"To establish breeding-farms, wool and leather factories and laboratories, and to make a comparative study of the different machinery and equipments used in the wool and leather industries and of the methods of marketing the products.

"To send out from time to time parties of experts to lecture in various cattle- and sheep-raising districts, in order to accelerate the development of wool and leather industries."

LIVE STOCK IN SOUTH AFRICA

RETURNS of the recent agricultural census in the Union of South Africa show the following totals of meat-food animals for the four provinces of Cape, Natal, Transvaal, and the Orange Free State. As will be seen, these represent considerable reductions from the figures of two years ago:

	1920	1918
Cattle	5,575,488	7,500,000
Hogs	724,007	1,500,000
Sheep	28,491,400	31,981,000

In addition, there were 5,842,270 goats, of which 2,696,670 were Angoras.

THE WOMAN'S CORNER

CHRISTMAS CHEER

[Mabel Compton]

AS THE YEARS GO BY and the days of Santa Claus fame fade away, the joy of receiving gradually gives place to the joy of giving. And, sad to relate, the past year or two Christmas has come to mean, more or less, the embarrassment of giving rather than the pleasure of it.

How much better it would be if we met the situation frankly, with empty hands and full hearts, instead of with some makeshift gift at the price of an abused purse and our peace of mind! Why do we torment ourselves over the idea that we must send Louise *something*, and, not feeling able to send anything worth while, compromise by sending perhaps a cheap dish, which is both a reflection on our taste and a tax on Louise's good nature and veracity? Louise will feel that she must return the compliment by some equally cheap thing, which she can, perhaps, as illy afford, and put our present away out of sight, with the mental reservation that she must not forget to get it out again the first time we are calling, and tell us how sweet it was of us to guess the very thing she wanted! We should have learned something, these past few years, about this indiscriminate, useless, senseless giving.

Let us give more thought to the Christmas spirit, and less worry to the cost and trouble of giving. A bright, orderly house, and cheery voices and smiling faces, can create more Christmas atmosphere than any number of deceptive packages. And nowhere is there a more beautiful setting for that Christmas "peace on earth, goodwill to men" than in the country. There we have the open, blazing fire, drawing all hearts together about the hearth; gay Christmas greens at our very door for the gathering; and in our own cellar and barnyard and cupboard fittings for the feast of a king.

THE HOME "BEAUTY PARLOR"

Somebody reminds us once in a while that our humble, homely kitchen is a veritable source of beauty magic, if we only knew it. And it is quite true that almost every housewife has right at hand on her own cupboard shelves the very best materials for the care of the complexion, the hands, the teeth, and the hair. With such toilet essentials constantly before her, no woman is justified in neglecting her personal appearance.

The hands are perhaps the members most abused by the average housewife. And here the lemon is certainly first aid. Just as it is, a slice rubbed over the hands after dish-washing, laundry work, potato-peeling, or any such occupation, is an excellent stain-remover, and also something of an antiseptic and astringent, healing and refining in its effect. If the lemon supply should run out occasionally, cider vinegar makes a very good substitute. Either should be used at once after the laundry work, etc. Their first value is in counteracting the excess of alkali in soaps and household cleaners generally, which has such a harmful effect on the skin.

But the skin needs oil as well as bleach and astringent. If olive oil is on hand, it is best; but any pure vegetable salad oil makes a very good substitute. If, each evening, the face and hands and neck are given a hot bath, followed by a dash of cold water, and then massaged gently for a few minutes with oil and lemon juice, the treatment works wonders in the appearance of the skin in a few weeks' time.

A delightful lemon lotion is made by adding the carefully strained juice of a lemon and a half-ounce of glycerine to a small bottle of toilet water.

Olive oil, or any other good vegetable oil, is an excellent remedy for dry, lifeless hair. It should be applied to the roots very sparingly with the finger-tips, and the scalp well massaged. And a well-beaten egg is still the very best shampoo.

Salt has a tonic effect. Used in the bath, especially the cold bath, or applied dry for a rub after the cold bath, it is always invigorating.

For a complexion that has been roughened and reddened by exposure or neglect there is no better treatment for immediate results than the potato mask. A

freshly boiled potato is mashed, a tablespoon of cream added, and the paste spread over the face and neck quite warm. Cover quickly with a damp, hot bath-towel, and lie down for half an hour. Remove the paste gently with warm water. Rub into the skin the least bit of oil or cold-cream, dash over a little cold water, dry, and apply at once your favorite powder. It is surprisingly "youthifying," and worth the trouble for special occasions.

RECIPES

Roast Turkey

Select a plump young turkey; dress, clean, and stuff; place on thin slices of fat pork laid in the bottom of a roasting-pan; rub the surface with salt, sprinkle with pepper, and spread with the following paste: Cream $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of butter; add slowly, and stirring constantly, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of flour; spread this mixture over the turkey, place in hot oven, and brown lightly, turning so that all sides may be browned evenly. Add 2 cups of water to the fat in the pan. Reduce heat, and cook slowly until tender, basting well every 15 minutes, and adding a little water from time to time, if needed. If the turkey is browning too rapidly, cover with a piece of heavy paper, well buttered—battered side down. It will require 3 to 3½ hours for cooking, depending on age of bird. Too long cooking will make it dry and flavorless. An older bird, re-

Shop Early

Get the Christmas Spirit, people, and practice what you preach!

Your last year's sad experience should these wise lessons teach:

SHOP EARLY—don't procrastinate; no laggard be nor slacker;

Don't buy a pair of slippers for the man who wants "terbacker,"

Nor cigars for the man who needs a pair of overshoes.

SHOP EARLY—thus the service of the store you won't abuse.

Take time; give thought to proper gifts; don't buy and then repent;

Because, if you act hastily, that's money poorly spent.

Appropriate your gifts should be, and serviceable surely.

The rush will soon be on, you know; 'tis best to buy maturely;

Don't put off till tomorrow what you can do today;

You'll find that buying early is the satisfactory way.

Michaelson's
FOR VALUES
BETTER VALUES
CORNER, 15th & Larimer, Denver

quiling longer cooking to make it tender, should be first steamed for several hours, and then browned quickly in the oven.

Giblet Gravy

Stew the neck, feet, wing-tips, and giblets in a sauce-pan until giblets are tender. Remove pieces from the liquor, adding sufficient cold water to make 1 quart. Chop giblets in small bits, and set aside. When turkey is done and removed from pan, pour off any superfluous fat, leaving about 3 tablespoons in pan. Place on heat; add 3 slightly rounded tablespoons of flour; mix, and stir until smooth and light brown. Add liquor from the stewed pieces gradually, stirring constantly until it boils up smooth and rich. Add the chopped giblets, and serve. The gravy should probably be sufficiently seasoned with salt and pepper from the turkey drippings and giblets. If not, add sufficient to taste.

Grandma's Bread Stuffing

Two small bakers' loaves or their equivalent. Slice and tear into small bits. Season well with salt, white pepper, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of powdered sage, and 1 medium-sized onion finely chopped or ground. Melt $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of butter in $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of boiling water, and stir it lightly into the bread-crumbs. If fowl is only lightly stuffed with this mixture, the dressing will be moist and light instead of heavy and soggy.

Cranberry Jelly

Pick over and wash 1 quart of cranberries. Add 1 cup of boiling water, and boil 20 minutes. Rub through a sieve, add 2 cups of sugar, and cook 20 minutes, stirring constantly. Turn into a mold

previously wet with cold water. Chill and serve.

Plum Pudding

2 cups bread-crumbs	1 cup sugar
$\frac{1}{2}$ pound raisins	$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
$\frac{1}{2}$ pound currants	1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 cup chopped citron	$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon cloves
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup candied orange peel	$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon allspice
1 cup chopped nuts	1 teaspoon vanilla
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped suet	3 tablespoons chocolate
3 teaspoons baking-powder	3 eggs
1 cup flour	1 pint milk
	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup molasses

Cream eggs, sugar, and suet. Soak bread-crumbs in milk, and add to above. Add salt and flavorings. Lastly add baking-powder and flour into which have been mixed the fruits and nuts. Mix well, turn into buttered mold, and steam 3 hours. Serve hot with Foamy Sauce.

Fruit Cake

1 cup currants	$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon cloves
2 cups raisins	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter
1 cup citron	3 eggs
$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon allspice	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup molasses
1 teaspoon cinnamon	1 cup milk
3 rounding teaspoons baking-powder	4 cups flour
	$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt

Cream well butter, sugar, and eggs. Add alternately molasses and milk and 2 cups of flour. Mix the fruit with 1 cup of flour and spices, and lastly add the remaining cup of flour sifted with the baking-powder. Line pan with buttered paper, and bake in slow oven.

Foamy Sauce

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter	1 egg
1 cup powdered sugar	1 teaspoon vanilla

Cream butter; add sugar gradually, then the egg-yolk. Beat until very light; add the stiffly beaten white, and turn mixture into double boiler to heat. Stir until hot. Add vanilla, and serve.

LETTER-BOX

To keep salt so that it will flow freely from the cruet, mix one teaspoon of corn starch with each cup of salt. Salt placed under baking-tins in a too hot oven will prevent the contents from scorching on the bottom. Salt and vinegar will remove tea stains from china. To freshen carpets, scatter dry salt over them before sweeping. It brightens the colors and checks the ravages of moths.—M. A.

* * *

To blanch almonds, pour boiling water over the shelled nuts and let stand for three or four minutes. Drain, and cover with cold water. Then take one at a time between the fingers, press lightly, and the hull will slip off. Dry before using.

To caramelize sugar, put the required amount of sugar in a sauce-pan. Place on range, and stir constantly until the sugar melts. It must be watched very carefully, as it begins to cook at once and burns very quickly. When the desired shade of brown is reached, remove from the heat at once. It should be about the color of maple sugar. If too dark, the flavor is spoiled and somewhat bitter.—CORA LEE ALLEN.

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The Universal Combination Range is the peer of all combination ranges. So simple to operate. No parts to put in or take out when changing from coal to gas. Either fuel can be used separately or together without danger.

Beautiful porcelain finish with polished top. Eliminates necessity of blacking. Washable as a china dish.

Saves one-third on fuel bill.

Univert Porcelain is a durable, heat-forged finish which will not crack, chip off, or discolor. Easy to clean.

Universal Ranges are grey iron throughout, making them heat-retaining and giving a more evenly heated baking oven.

The small fire-box, with its thin lining of malleabilized grey iron, is remarkable as a fuel saver.

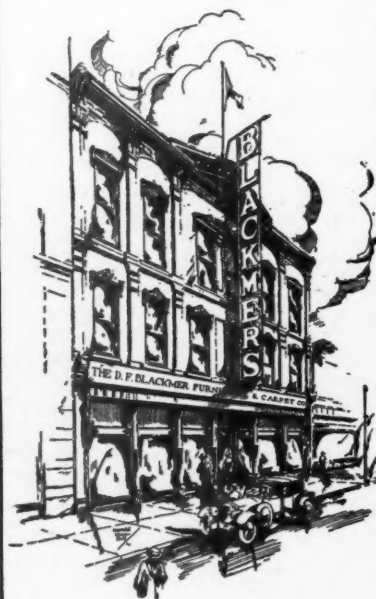
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THE KIDS' CORRAL

THE CHRISTMAS-EVE BEGGAR

[Evelleen Stein]

IT WAS CHRISTMAS EVE, and little Josef had finished his tasks for the night. He had carried in an armful of fagots for the hearth, had penned Nannette, the goat, safely in the fold, and, last of all, had drawn a pail of fresh water from the old well, all covered with snow and icicles. When he had taken this into the house and set it on the deal table, he hurried to the fireplace to warm his numb fingers; for a bitter wind was blowing. Though Josef and his mother were poor, and the tiny brown house in which they lived had but one room, everything was sweet and clean, and a cheerful little fire was blazing on the hearth. As Josef now stood before this, the bright-faced mother, in a homespun dress, was making ready their simple supper.

Presently, "Mother," said the little boy, "are we going to the village to-night?"

The mother hesitated a moment, and then, "Little son," she answered, "mother is so sorry, but you know it is a long walk in the deep snow, and your shoes are so thin. I did hope to get you a new pair for Christmas, but work has been scarce, so you must wait a little longer. And my shawl is not warm; and, since this cold wind has begun to blow, I think we had better stay in the house."

Little Josef looked deeply disappointed; for they had both set their hearts on going to the village. There were to be Christmas lights and music in the village church, where all their friends would be gathered together; and, as their little house stood well out in the country, on the edge of a forest, Josef and his mother were often lonely, especially through the long, snowy winters. But, though the little boy was disappointed, he tried bravely to smile and to keep back the two big tears that started to his eyes.

Seeing this, his mother stooped and kissed his forehead. "Josef," she said, "you are a dear child! We will sit by the fire and sing our Christmas songs together, and by and by we will put our candle in the window for the Christ-child. And, see, you shall have this little sugar-cake I have baked for you; and we will have a happy time all by ourselves."

Then, with a cheery smile, she dished an earthen bowl of soup from the pot on the hearth, and, placing this on the table together with the Christmas loaf of black bread, they sat side by side on a wooden bench, and ate as contentedly as if their homely fare had been a king's feast.

When they had finished and the supper things were cleared away, they set their one tallow candle on the window-sill to light the Christ-child as he walked the earth again on that holy night; and then they sat by the hearth and sang over the beautiful old Christmas songs which the peasant folk of that country had handed down for hundreds of years.

Many times, as they sang, little Josef would jump down from the bench and, running to the window, would peer out into the starry night, hoping that he might see the Christ-child treading softly down the snowy road. But, though he did not see the little white-robed figure he hoped for, presently on one of these trips to the window he did see someone looking quite different. "Mother," he cried, "there is a man coming along the road and turning into our path! He is wrapped in a dark cloak and is carrying a staff. Perhaps he is a robber! Shall I bar the door?" "No, child!" answered the mother, coming to the window also to look out. "More likely he is a beggar. And, remember, Josef, it is Christmas Eve and bitter cold. We must bar no one out on such a night. Run and open the door instead!"

Josef quickly obeyed, flinging the door wide, even before the stranger could knock. He seemed an old man, bent and feeble, his tattered cloak blowing about him in the chill wind. The mother's eyes filled with compassion as, leaning on his staff, he begged for a bit of bread and that he might warm himself by their fire.

"Indeed, sir," she answered kindly, "you are right welcome!" And, taking his hand, she led him in, and Josef hastened to draw the bench to the warmest corner of the hearth for the newcomer, and laid down his staff for him, and stirred the fire, and cast on a handful of fagots, so that it blazed up in a sparkle of bright flames.

And, while the stranger sat quietly in the warmth, the mother hustled about to set food before him. There was no more soup, but she brought out a jug of Nannette's milk—to be sure, it was to have been saved for her own and Josef's breakfast, but no matter—and then from the Christmas loaf she cut a generous slice. Then she looked in the meal-sack, and, though the supply was scanty, she took out the greater part, and soon had made a bowl of steaming porridge; for she thought to herself: "He is weak and old, and the warm food will give him strength." When she had placed these things before the stranger, little Josef took from the table his Christmas sugar-cake, and shyly laid it in the beggar's hand. The old man looked at it a moment in silence, and then said very gently: "Thank you, my child!"

When he had eaten and warmed himself, the stranger looked out into the snow and darkness, and then, turning to the mother, asked if he might stay until morning. "We will willingly shelter you," she replied; "for it would be cruel to send you out tonight." Nevertheless she was troubled, wondering how she could make him comfortable with their few coverings. Josef seemed to guess her thoughts; for he whispered to his mother: "Let us give him the sheepskin from our bed; for he is so cold. We can keep our clothes on, and then there is your shawl for us." For the little lad was as tender-hearted as his mother. "Yes," she said, "we can do so. And now light the lantern and run to Nannette's fold and bring in a few armfuls of straw."

With this she made the stranger a bed by the hearth, where the embers still glowed, though they had burned low. Then she gave him for covering the sheepskin. It was old and worn, but it had kept them warm for more winters than little Josef could remember. Having done this, with a prayer on her lips she took Josef in her arms, and they crept into bed, covering themselves as best they could.

At first they shivered with the cold, but after a while a wonderful warmth began to steal over them, and they both fell fast asleep. Neither awakened until day-break, and then it was Josef who first opened his eyes, and, putting out his hands suddenly, he felt a warm cover. "Mother," he called out, "did you take the sheepskin from the poor old man?" "No, child!" answered the mother, as, startled, she sprang up and looked about. And then: "Why, Josef, what has happened? The stranger is gone, and the warm cover is on our bed, and it is no longer old and worn, but new and fleecy!"

The mother, bewildered, began to stir up the fire, while Josef, running to the

stranger's bed, picked up the cloak he had left, and "Look, mother!" he cried in amazement. "His cloak was *not old and ragged*, but *thick and warm*, and would just fit you." Then he went to get his shoes, and, when he saw them, he ran to his mother with: "Why, mother, you *did* get me the new shoes after all! And how fine and warm they are! I never had anything like them before." But the mother looked at him in wonder and said slowly: "No, Josef, I did not buy you any shoes!"

Josef could not understand things, but, putting on the shoes, he went out to milk the goat. He soon returned, saying: "See, mother, Nannette gave twice as much milk this morning!" "And, Josef," the mother said, "I did not know we had so much meal, and I did not remember that I baked such a large loaf yesterday." And, as she cut into it, "See," she added, in fresh surprise, "it is not black, but fine and white!"

Just then there was a loud knock at the door, and, when Josef opened it, there was the wood-cutter from the forest, with a big bundle of fagots on his back. Throwing them down, he said: "Here are some fagots for your Christmas fire! Some little voice whispered to me to come by on my way to spend Christmas in the village." And, before Josef could say "Thank you!" with a "Merry Christ-

mas!" he was off. But close behind came farmer Pierre in his sleigh, drawn by a big shaggy horse with scarlet collar and silver bells. "Somehow," he said to the mother, "the thought came into my head this morning that I would stop here on my way to Daughter Clotilde's and fetch a basket with your Christmas dinner—

and some goodies for you, Josef!" he added. And, with a kindly smile, away he drove with his jingling bells.

"Mother, mother," cried Josef, "what does it all mean?"

The mother, hugging and kissing the little boy, could only answer: "Surely the Christ-child came to us last night!"

THE SPICE BOX

Life at Its Highest.—TEACHER—"What is the highest form of animal life?"

LITTLE PETER (quickly)—"The giraffe!"—*Boston Globe.*

No Hope.—"Where have you been?"

"To the cemetery."

"Any one dead?"

(Gloomily) "All of them."—*Princeton Tiger.*

Some Sight.—HE—"I had a nightmare last night!"

SHE—"Yes! I saw you with her!"—*London Mail.*

Coming Back Strong.—WIFE—"But, my dear, you've forgotten again that today is my birthday."

HUSBAND—"Er—listen, love! I know I forgot it, but there isn't a thing about you to remind me that you are a day older than you were a year ago."—*London Opinion.*

Cheaper.—"Fancy your getting married again, Mrs. Smale! I hope you have done wisely."

"Yes, mum; I reckon. Yew see, I 'ave so much washing to take 'ome now, if I 'adn't got 'e I should have been forced to buy a donkey, sure 'nough."—*London Tattler.*

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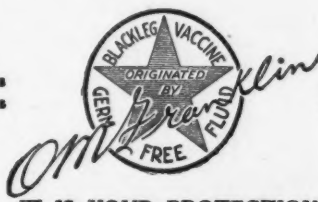
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